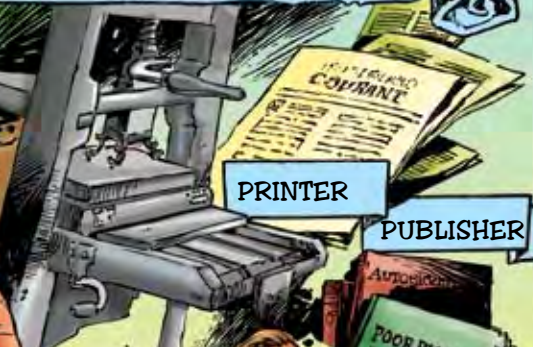




Benjamin Franklin was a great American. During his long and useful life he played many roles—printer, writer, inventor, scientist, good citizen, statesman, diplomat, humanitarian.



DIPLOMAT



PRINTER

PUBLISHER



STATESMAN



WRITER



GOOD
CITIZEN



INVENTOR

SCIENTIST

Benjamin Franklin was born January 17, 1706, in the city of Boston, Massachusetts.

My tenth son and fifteenth child, how wonderful!



Ben's father, Josiah Franklin, had come to the colonies from England in 1682.

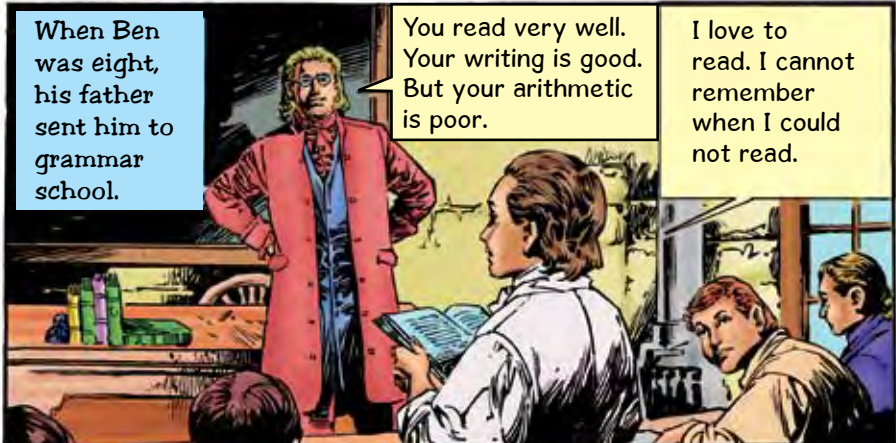
Josiah set up a soapmaking and candlemaking shop in Boston.



When Ben was eight, his father sent him to grammar school.

You read very well. Your writing is good. But your arithmetic is poor.

I love to read. I cannot remember when I could not read.



But his father only had enough money to let Ben go to school for two years.

I'm sorry, but money is scarce. You will have to help me now.

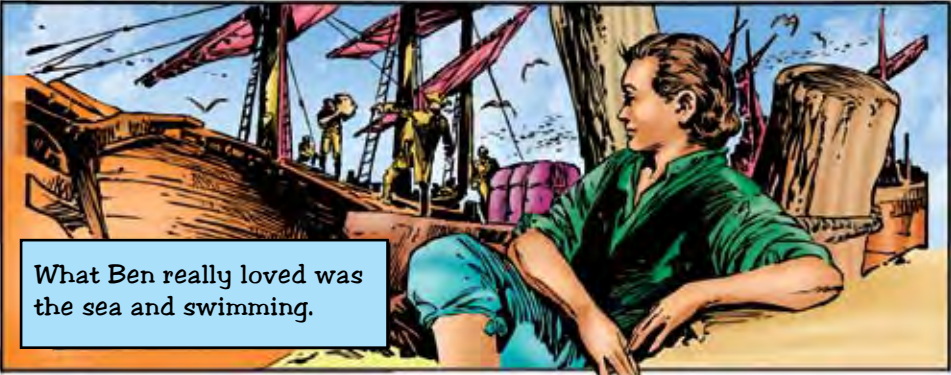


Ben did not like making soap or candles, so his father showed him other crafts.

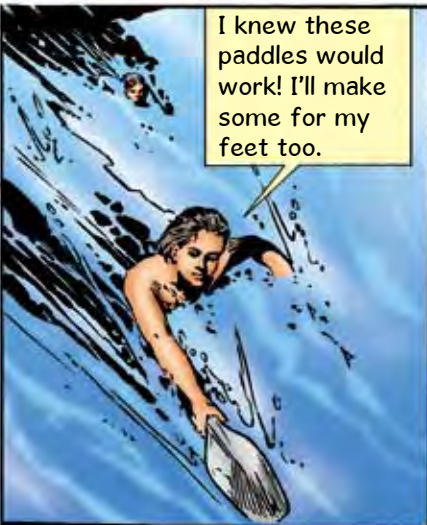
I do not like this kind of work, father.



What Ben really loved was the sea and swimming.

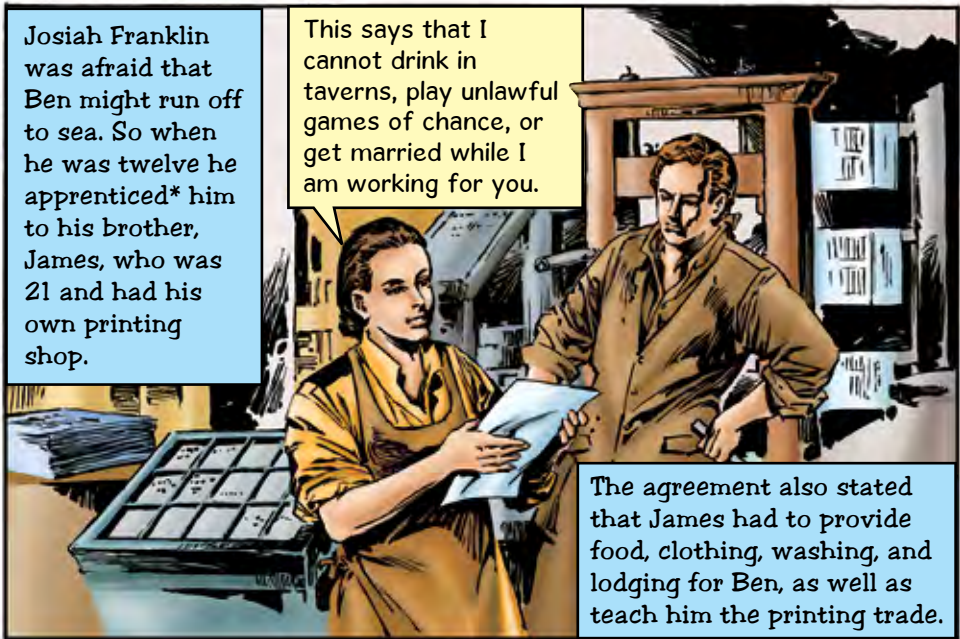


I knew these paddles would work! I'll make some for my feet too.



Ben, you are always inventing something.





* to work for another to learn a skill or trade

When James Franklin started the *New England Courant*, Boston already had two newspapers. Both of them were very dull.

We need some lively articles that will make people think!

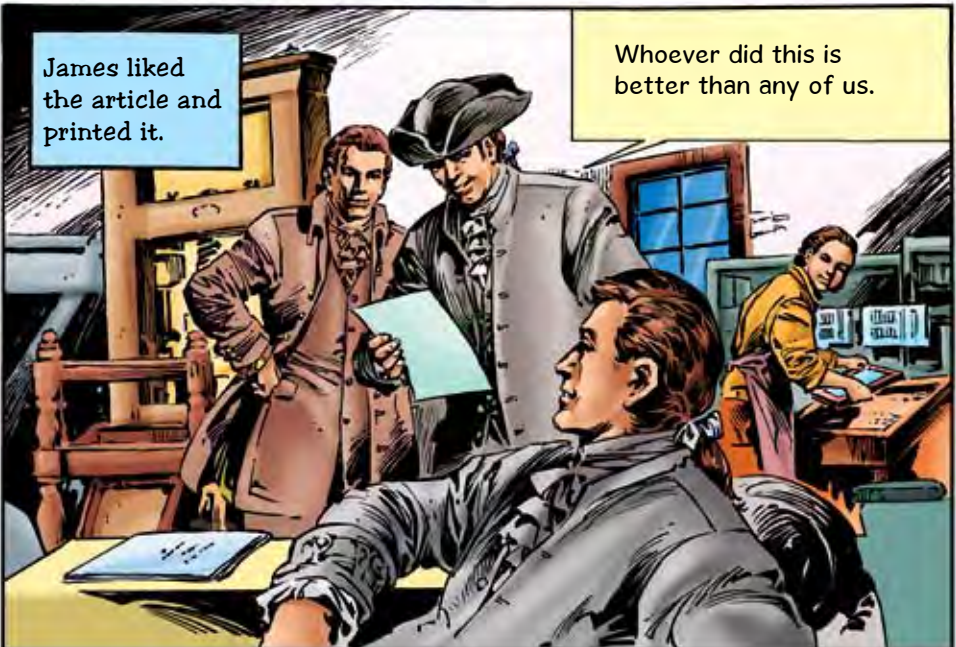


I'll sign the name Silence Dogood.

Ben knew his brother wouldn't let him write for the paper, so he wrote an article and signed it Silence Dogood. He slipped it under the door of the shop.



James liked the article and printed it.



Whoever did this is better than any of us.

Ben wrote thirteen more articles under the name of Silence Dogood. James printed them, and the readers loved them. But when Ben admitted that he was the author, James was very angry. He told Ben his job was to work the presses, not to write.