

Help, Please

Not everyone believes the story of Betsy Ross, the woman who made America's first flag. Some say it is just a tale, but I was there. I may only be a little mouse, but I know what I saw.

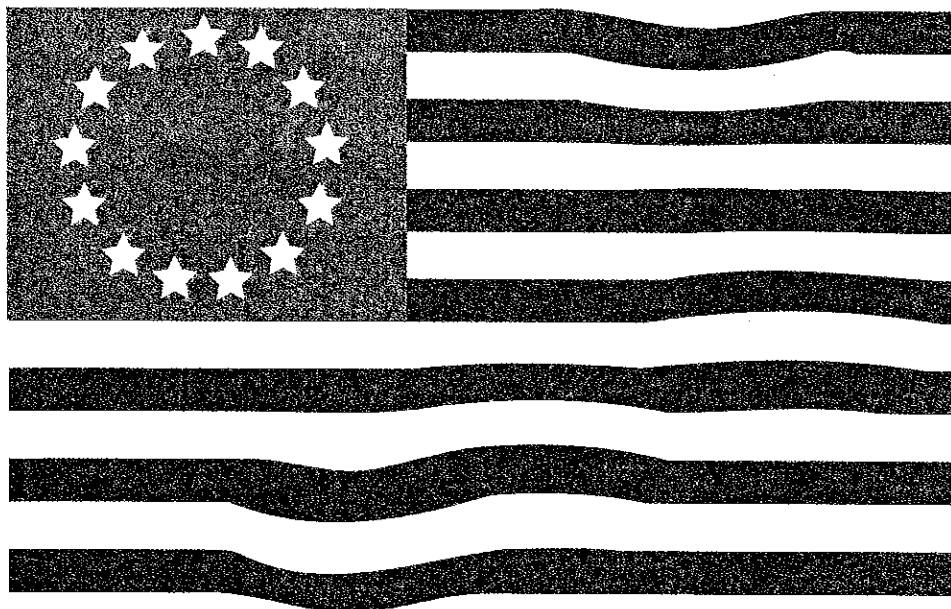
Mrs. Ross had a small sewing shop in Philadelphia, and when she was busy, she often ate lunch there. One day, I smelled fresh bread. Mrs. Ross was having my favorite lunch with some salty cheese. You may not know this, but Mrs. Ross was a little messy. This meant plenty of crumbs, which is why I was hanging around on the day in question.

The door flew open with such a clatter that I dropped my cheese. I peered up and saw the great man himself, General George Washington! Mrs. Ross asked what she could do for him.

General Washington explained that the new country had no flag, and this just would not do! He asked Mrs. Ross for her help. General Washington showed her a sketch. She frowned at the six-pointed stars the general had drawn and then made a few suggestions.

After he left, Mrs. Ross got to work. Bright scraps of red, white, and blue littered the floor as her scissors clicked and clacked into the night. Moonlight streamed in the window, reflecting off her silvery needle and fine thread. The flag grew larger with each stripe and star.

By morning, it was done. General Washington had tears in his eyes when he first saw it. And, I was there, a witness to history.



My Cooking Journal

Monday

It is my first day at cooking camp! I'm in the Yummy Sweets group. We started the day picking blueberries and eating a few too! They were warm from the sun. As I bit into them, I felt little berry explosions of sweet juice in my mouth. When we baked our muffins, the aroma of vanilla cake and blueberries floated over the whole camp!

Tuesday

A local farmer brought over fresh peaches. We peeled off the fuzzy skin and sliced them up for a pie. Making the piecrust was fun. We rolled out the silky dough into a big circle and placed it in the dish. Then, we poured in the peaches that were sprinkled with sugar. Finally, we put another crust on top and cut tiny slits into the top.

Wednesday

Today, we made watermelon ice pops! We scooped out the juicy red fruit and put it in a blender with some tart lime juice and sweet honey. Then, we poured the mixture into molds. The smell of watermelon always reminds me of a freshly mowed lawn. Maybe, it just makes me think of summer!

Thursday

My eyes are watering, my nose is running . . . and I'm enjoying every moment of it. I really like spicy food. It reminds me of the meals at my Tia Maria's table. We made quesadillas for dinner tonight. We each made our own, filling them with anything we wanted to include. The kitchen had all sorts of things to choose from, including cheese, bacon, sliced chicken, tomatoes, avocado, and two kinds of beans. Oh, and did I say there were jalapeños? That's why my nose is running!

Friday

I cannot believe this is my last day! We spent the first part of the day making thin sheets of gingerbread that we cut into squares. Then, we made homemade marshmallows that looked like fluffy white clouds! Next, we melted chocolate and poured it onto a marble slab. After it cooled, we broke it into pieces. Later, as the campfire crackled and popped, we made the world's best s'mores!

Name _____

Answer the questions.

1. Describe the setting of "Help, Please."

2. Describe the setting of "My Cooking Journal."

3. Who is the narrator in "Help, Please"? What can you learn about the narrator in the passage?

4. Who is the narrator in "My Cooking Journal"? What can you learn about the narrator in the passage?

5. In "Help, Please" Betsy Ross probably agreed to make the flag because

- A. she had grown tired of sewing clothing.
- B. she did not want to disappoint the general.
- C. she needed the money.
- D. she wanted to help her country.

6. Why do you think the narrator in "My Cooking Journal" wrote that watermelon made her think of summer?

- A. The smell reminded her of a freshly mowed lawn.
- B. She only eats watermelon in the summer.
- C. Watermelon is not available during winter months.
- D. Watermelon makes her remember summer camp.

Name _____

7. Authors use details that appeal to our senses. Sensory details help us better visualize characters, settings, and events. Complete the chart with sensory details from both passages.

	Help, Please	My Cooking Journal
See		
Smell		
Hear		
Touch		
Taste		

8. Choose one sensory detail from each passage. Write a paragraph that tells whether you feel the details work. Explain why or why not. If not, how could the author have improved the details?

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