The Tudor Apprentice and The (Globe) Theatre

Elizabeth 1 has been on the throne since 1558

Lesson 1 Story starts in 1597

Scene 1 Tom the Apprentice meets Master Carpenter

Tom arrives at the home and workshop of Master Carpenter, hungry and with just the clothes he stands up in, to begin his seven year apprenticeship. The master sets him to work immediately, although a task master he is fair and kind. After sweeping the workshop, holding a piece of oak while the master cuts it and putting the tools away. The Master sends him to find the Mistress in the kitchen for something to eat.

Scene 2 Tom meets Mistress Carpenter

Tom follows his nose and the smell of fresh bread to the kitchen. He greets the Mistress with a bow. She gives him bread, cabbage soup, an apple and a beaker to get water from the well. She knows the Blacksmith also has a new apprentice and she sends Tom outside to eat and meet the Smithy’s new Apprentice. He must remember to come back as soon as the master calls.

Lesson 2

Scene 3 Tom meets Jim, The Blacksmith’s new Apprentice

Tom and Jim sit under the Oak tree and share their food, swopping stories about their masters. Jim tells Tom that his master has told him to return a horse to it’s owner in London the following day and has been promised a penny. He intends to go to the Globe theatre to see one of Shakespeare’s plays. He wonders if Tom could go perhaps his master has got a delivery for him to make. Tom doesn’t think it’s likely but anyway he can’t drive a cart. Jim says he can. Tom hears master Carpenter calling and he dashes back to the carpenter’s workshop.

Scene 4 Tom resolves Master Carpenter’s problem

Master Carpenter is very anxious when Tom returns. He is worrying about all the work he has to do and then Reverend Green’s servant has called today with a note from the Reverend, saying he hopes the table that Master Carpenter is making can be delivered tomorrow. The master has chairs to finish as well. He spends his time pacing up and down. Then he hears Tom suggest that he could make the delivery.

“What a silly idea. You can’t even drive a cart.”

“ But I know a man that can!” He explains Jim’s suggestion.

Tom also has the nerve to ask Master for a penny. Carpenter worries – will he come back or run off? What if they lose the horse and cart ? Eventually he gives in and Tommy runs to tell Jim.

Lesson 3

Scene 5 Tom delivers the news to Master Carpenter

Tom runs out to the Oak tree where Jim is still eating. Tom tells Jim the good news. They plan their day. Tom will come and wake Jim before first light. They both must have some food to take with them. They must get directions. Jim must deliver the horse to Judge Jeffries in Justice Lane. While Tom is to deliver the table to Reverend Green in Church Street. They will both need bill of sale and both must have a penny. Tom will get the table loaded into the cart with the masters help and harness the horse and cart before he wakes Jim. Tom leaves Jim and curls up to sleep under the workbench in the workshop.

Scene 6 Master Carpenter &Tom prepare for the journey

Master Carpenter enters the workshop carrying a lantern and wakes Tom up. He sends Tom to the well to splash his face with cold water on his return they load the very heavy oak table into the cart. Plus wax and a cloth in case they scrape the table. He gives him a parcel of food from the mistress, the bill of sale and directions to Reverend Green in Church Street. Finally Master gives him a penny to pay for the theatre and lots of warnings and do’s and don’ts.

Lesson 4

Scene 7 Tom wakes Jim up

Tom goes to the Blacksmith’s with the lantern and wakes Jim up. Jim goes and splashes his face with cold water from the well. Tom checks he has food, bill of sale, directions and penny and then Jim gets the horse from the stable and ties him to the cart. Tom tells Jim to get into the driving seat and they leave for London.

Scene 8 – The deliveries

They make the deliveries to Reverend Green and Judge Jefferies. They encounter Housekeeper, Stable boy, Man servant. They have to open gates, knock on doors, unload the furniture, deliver the horse. They then make their way to the theatre.

Lesson 5

Scene 9 – The Horse Boy

They head towards the theatre spotting it because of the flag flying on the top. They have to be there by 12.00 noon or when the trumpeter sounds his horn for the start of the play. But where should they leave the horse and cart they don’t want it to get stolen? They spot a field by the theatre. Jim finds a farthing that his master gave him. They see the Horse Boy and risk leaving the horse and cart with the boy in the field for a farthing. Warning him it better be by the oak tree on their return.