Student lessons along the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

Once upon a time ...



Everybody loves a story.

he story of the Overmountain Men of 1780 is true. The events of that September and October are real; they are part of our American history. They really happened at that time in the places and to the people you are learning about. Those are the facts. None of it is pretend.

But those actions could have taken place at another time as well. The **storyline** is simple. Group A is looking for land on which to build homes and to raise their families. They want to be left alone. Someone from another culture (Group B) threatens to attack and to destroy the homes of Group A members if they did not agree to follow the rules made by the leaders of Group B. Group A decides they cannot live in fear of Group B. Rather than wait for Group B to attack, Group A goes out to find and destroy Group B. Group A searches a long time, but eventually finds Group B. Group A defeats Group B. The effects of this victory are felt far and wide.

What stories can you think of that sound like this? That have a similar storyline?

Stories have heroes and villains, called **characters**. They have events that happen in a certain logical order, called **plot**. Stories have a part in the story that is most exciting, called the **climax**. Stories have an ending, called **final outcome**. Stories happen in places, called **setting**. Stories happen at a certain time, called **time period**. Character, plot, climax, outcome, setting and time period are all elements of a story.

To Do: Write your own version of the Story of the Overmountain Men of 1780 using modern characters and setting. Or, move the story to another time period or make it happen in a make-believe world that you create in your own imagination. Describe your characters. Give them new names. Describe your setting. Change the time and place; but, tell the story of the Overmountain Men of 1780.

Tell the tale. Make it your own story. Share your story with your classmates, family and

friends. Then tell them more about the Overmountain Men of 1780 and how it *really* happened.



