

Attack of the Turtle by Drew Carlson

Booktalk:

Could a tiny floating barrel actually work as the first submarine during the Revolutionary War? Could it actually blow up the *Eagle*, the biggest ship of the British Fleet? David and his cousin hope so.

1. Setting? (Old Saybrook, CT, 1776)
2. Where did David B. graduate from? (Yale)
3. How old is he? (33)
4. Why was he so old? (Couldn't go to college when younger – farm- father died then mother remarried)
5. Why was Nate afraid of H2)? (Fell in when younger.)
6. Why was Nate helping at the farm? (Father joined the Revolution)
7. Why was David's secret invention? (submarine)
8. Why couldn't they tell anyone? (So could surprise British fleet)
9. Where did they build it? (On poverty island in the CT River)
10. Why? (No one would see them, no one went out there, lots of trees)
11. What will they tell people if they are discovered? (David's fishing and using the shed for a reel to wind his net on.)
12. Who is going to pilot the sub? David's brother Ezra
13. What did they name it/ (American Turtle)
14. What else did David invent to go with it? (A dept gauge and how to blow up a bomb under water)
15. How many minutes of air does the turtle have under water? (30)
16. Who did Nate write to about a light inside the Turtle? (Ben Franklin – p 41)
17. Who is he worried about reading it? (Mr. Platt)
18. What does he find to use for light? (foxfire – glow from old wood)
19. Who was the old man who showed up? (B. Franklin)
20. What was Admiral Richard Howe's nickname? (Black Dick)
21. How long did it take to go from Old Saybrook to N. Y. City by Sloop? (2 weeks)
22. The British had both Howes' there – The General and the Admiral.
23. What did Joe –the 15 year old soldier – tell Nate about being brave? (p. 88) (Courage is doing the right thing even if you are scared.)
24. How did Nate happen to join the Army? (To get across the river to find his father)
25. Did he find his father? (Not until later)
26. Why does Private Nate Wade pilot the sub? (Ezra got "Camp Fever"- a disease that soldiers were getting)
27. What happened? (Couldn't attach the bomb, was being chased – let bomb go and the British retreated)
28. What does the author say about the facts in this story? Was Nate a real person?
(See author's notes at the end of the book)