





Talk About It

Who are some of the legendary figures of American history? What qualities must a person have to become a legend?



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American Legends

Vocabulary

original	fireball
wring	impress
advertisement	elected
commenced	sauntered

Word Parts

Compound Words are words made by combining two smaller words. Sometimes you can figure out the meaning of a compound word by breaking it down into its word parts. For example, *fireball* is made up of *fire* and *ball* and means “a ball of fire.”



Grandma's Tales

by Daniel Fritz

My grandma lives in a town in Tennessee near the place Davy Crockett was born. She is a distant relative of his and thinks people should get all the **original** facts about this American legend straight. She is determined to **wring** the truth from all those wild stories about him. She feels those stories are like the words in an **advertisement**: they exaggerate and try to convince readers that Davy Crockett could accomplish impossible feats! My grandma agrees he was a man full of

energy and enthusiasm. But she wants people to remember he was a talented human being—not a superhero.

It was a cold, snowy night the last time Grandma told me Davy Crockett's life story. We were sitting on the couch, sipping hot chocolate when she **commenced** telling me facts about Davy's early life. “Davy Crockett was born in 1786,” she began. “The woods around here were beautiful then, but life wasn't easy. His family moved around a lot.”



“Was Davy a boy when he caught a flaming **fireball** with his bare hands?” I asked. “Is that when he picked up a rattlesnake and used it for a lasso?” I continued, trying to **impress** Grandma with my knowledge. She didn’t smile or laugh.

“Davy got married and had children. He farmed, hunted, and joined the army. He got interested in politics and was **elected** to Congress. He lived by the rule: ‘Be sure you are right. Then go ahead,’” Grandma said.

“When he left politics, Davy decided to explore Texas,” she continued. “That was where he had his last great adventure.”

“Yes!” I said. “That’s where he died a hero in the famous battle at the Alamo.”

That statement of fact brought a huge smile to Grandma’s face. “You got **THAT** right,” she said, happily. Then she **sauntered** slowly over to the coonskin cap sitting on her mantel and plopped it on my head.

Reread for Comprehension



Story Structure Plot and Setting

A Plot and Setting Chart helps you identify why the setting is important to the plot of the story. Use your Plot and Setting Chart as you reread “Grandma’s Tales” to find out how the setting is an important part of the story’s structure.

Plot	Setting