Aviator



0. Aviator - Story Preface

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Howard Hughes, Jr. loved aviation. This image, which is maintained by the Library of Congress, describes how Howard appeared after he purchased a new plane made by Boeing: "Full lgth., standing, facing slightly right; in front of his new Boeing [100A] Army Pursuit Plane, Inglewood, Calif." Online via the Library of Congress, "reproduction number" LC-USZ62-63333.

If you can help him
to forget himself,
get along better with boys
and perhaps teach him
to keep his hut in order,
I ask for nothing else.

Allene Gano Hughes to Lt. Aures Regarding her son, Howard R. Hughes, Jr. July, 1914

Allene Hughes was concerned about her son when she wrote to Lt. Aures, a stockade leader at Dan Beard's Outdoor School in Pennsylvania. It was the month before World War I erupted in Europe, and young Howard Robard Hughes, Jr. - an only child - was twelve years old.

<u>His mother</u> always worried about him. It was a time - before <u>preventive vaccinations</u> pioneered by <u>Jonas Salk</u> and Albert Sabin were available - when <u>infantile paralysis</u> (polio, the <u>infectious disease</u> which paralyzed President Franklin Roosevelt) was <u>spreading</u> among <u>children</u> in America and <u>elsewhere</u>.

The President, who often stood while giving speeches, was <u>rarely photographed</u> in his wheel chair - as we see him (in 1941) <u>with Ruthie Bie</u> (whose sister, Wendy, was also a polio victim).

Howard, a somewhat sickly child, benefited from his <u>summers</u> at the Outdoor School. He would return home in much better condition than when he left. But at <u>camp</u>, Howard was around other children. Other children had germs.

In the summer of 1916, Howard's father (Howard Robard Hughes, Sr.) wrote to Dan Beard:

I thought these clippings [reporting the rapid spread of infantile paralysis] might be of interest as the clippings show how easily the violent germs are carried even by a well person.

Fear of germs, and what they could do to him, had deep - ultimately paralyzing - roots in Howard's life.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Aviator

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Aviator

Media Stream



Allene Hughes - Mother of Howard Hughes

Image online, courtesy <u>findagrave.com</u> website.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Allene-Hughes-Mother-of-Howard-Hughes



Polio - Social Distancing before the Vaccine

Image depicting a scene in New York City, in 1916, online courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Polio-Social-Distancing-before-the-Vaccine



FDR in His Wheelchair

Photo online, courtesy FDR Library. The picture was taken by President Roosevelt's friend, Margaret "Daisy" Suckley.

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Dan Beard Camp Ceremony

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Howard Robard Hughes, Sr.

Image online, courtesy the American Oli & Gas Historical Society.

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Dan Beard: Camp Leader

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Aviator

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<u>Preventing Polio with Salk's Vaccine: "Unconditional Surrender"</u>
"Unconditional Surrender," a film about polio and the first preventive vaccine, is online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Jonas Salk - "Could You Patent the Sun?"

Clip from Edward R. Morrow interview with Dr. Jonas Salk, online courtesy Global Poverty Project. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jonas-Salk-Could-You-Patent-the-Sun-