As a teen runaway (before he graduated from high school), Frank Abagnale passed bad checks and convincingly pretended he was a Pan American pilot.

Growing tired of that gig, he decided he'd be a doctor, then a lawyer and - near the end of his hoodwinking days - a sociology professor. A former police chief from Houston, Texas once observed:

> Frank Abagnale could write a check on toilet paper, drawn on the Confederate States Treasury, sign it 'U.R. Hooked,' and cash it at any bank in town, using a Hong Kong driver's license for identification. (Catch Me If You Can, page 116)

As his criminal skills grew, so did his ambitions. He learned all about *The Art of the Steal* from firsthand experience.

Although his parents didn't know it for a long time, Frank Abagnale had become a notorious thief.

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

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: