

0. THE PLOT - Story Preface

1. EARLY PROMISE

2. A FLAWED HERO

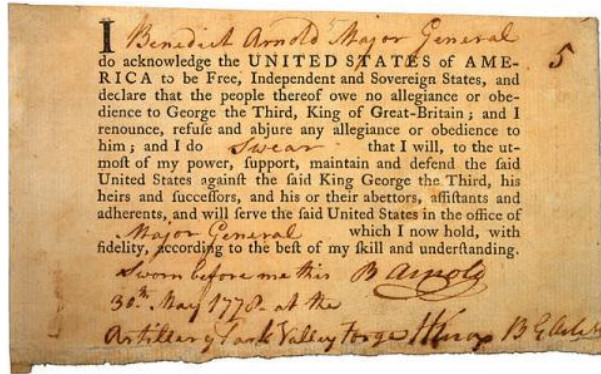
3. GREED

4. DECEPTION

5. THE PLOT

6. BENEDICT ARNOLD ESCAPES

7. EXECUTION OF JOHN ANDRE



On 30 May 1778, Benedict Arnold signed an Oath of Allegiance to the newly formed United States of America. Twenty-eight months later, he was meeting with a British spy to negotiate giving-up West Point to the Redcoats. Part of the deal, if it came together, was a significant sum of money for Arnold. Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. PD

Benedict Arnold insisted on a personal meeting with John Andre. Knowing such a meeting would require him to go behind enemy lines, Andre initially resisted but finally gave in. He would wear his uniform, however. To dress in disguise, or use a false name, would automatically render him a spy, if he were caught.

The meeting with Arnold (on September 21, 1780) took longer than expected, but Andre left with priceless documents. Benedict Arnold gave him key data about West Point, including troop placement.

Because his ship (the *Vulture*) had moved up river, Andre was stranded. He would have to return by land, inside American lines.

Against his better judgment, Andre removed his uniform, wore a disguise and used passes (prepared by Arnold) in the name of John Anderson. Joshua Smith, an associate of Arnold, traveled with him.

Believing he was safe (once the two men reached neutral territory on September 23rd), Andre continued alone. By 9 am that morning, he was apprehended by suspicious militiamen. Searching Andre, the men found the West Point documents in Andre's boot.

It was the beginning of the end for John Andre.

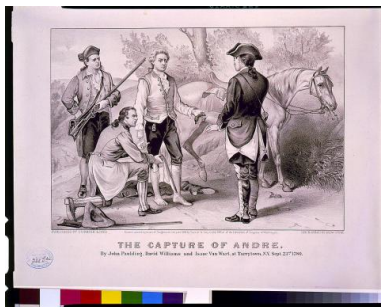
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-PLOT-Benedict-Arnold>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-PLOT-Benedict-Arnold>

Media Stream



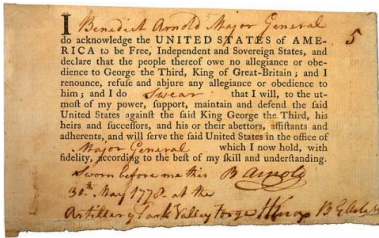
John Andre - Documents Found in Spy's Boot

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress. Reproduction number: LC-USZC4-2395

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/John-Andre-Documents-Found-in-Spy-s-Boot>



THE PLOT

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Benedict Arnold Betrays His Country

Clip from the A&E Biography on Benedict Arnold, "Triumph and Treason," which aired in 1995. Online, courtesy YouTube.

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