

0. Horace Mann: Father of Public Education - Story Preface

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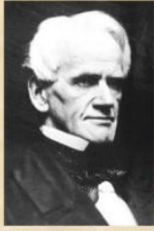
Horace Mann (1796 – 1859)
"Father of the Common School"

Background:

- Born on a farm in Massachusetts, educated in mediocre schoolhouse, later a graduate of Brown University.
- Lawyer and senator.
- 1837 – Elected Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education.

Passion:

- Improving public schools became his life's work.
- Felt that the Common School would be a great equalizer for society. It was essential for the harmony and stability of society.



"Education is the only political safety. Outside of this ark all is deluge."

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Outside of this ark all is deluge.*
Horace Mann
America's "Father of the Common School"

Draped in his scholarly robes, Horace Mann—founder and president of Antioch College—reviewed his 1859 speech to the graduates. He underlined the quote he wanted them—and hopefully, society—to remember in the future:

I beseech you to treasure up in your hearts these my parting words: Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.

Mann reflected on those words, taking some heart in knowing that he had worked diligently to help ensure that every child in the nation would have a good education, that slavery was an evil and that those with mental-health problems should be given proper care.

Mann leaned back in his chair, his speech in hand, and his mind drifted back to his early days working on his family farm in Franklin, Massachusetts. It wasn't easy and it took its toll on his health with the average temperature for the five months of winter averaging below freezing.

During these months he would spend his spare time walking to the community library. It was the first one in the country and was started when Benjamin Franklin donated 116 books (in honor of the citizens naming the town after him).

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Horace-Mann-Father-of-Public-Education>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Horace-Mann-Father-of-Public-Education>

Media Stream

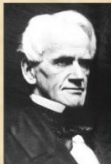
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Horace Mann

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