



## Apprenticeships in the mid-1800s

Imagine you live in the mid-1800s. You decide you want to go into a trade. You have learned about different types of trades, including building trades, blacksmith, pharmacist, printer, shoemaker, harness maker and more.

**What was it like to be an Apprentice?**

“In answer to several questions that I put him {a fellow more senior apprentice} he told me that those who got such a place as we had were pretty well off—they had good fare and though old Moneygripe was as cross as the Devil yet he took it all out in jaw—and never beat or abused them—and as to running of errands and such sort of things the youngest apprentice had to do it for a year before he tried his hand at the tools. This information galled me considerably—I determined however to bear my year’s indignity as patiently as I could consoling myself with the hope that after it passed I should have easier times and a more creditable station.” -- *Moneygripe’s Apprentice page 66*

**There are some difficult words in this dairy entry. Look up the definition of the following words:**

1. Galled
2. Indignity
3. Consoling
4. Creditable
5. Are there any other words that you don’t know? Look them up and write the definitions here.

**What do you think life was like for an Apprentice who worked for Moneygripe? How do you know?**

**What do you think it means that “he took it all out in jaw”?**

**Do you think you want to be an apprentice for Moneygripe? Why or why not?**

**Thinking about what you learned from the presentation, what kind of apprentice from the mid 1800s would you like to be? Why?**

**What do you want to be when you grow up? What skills do you need for that job? How will you get them?**

Resources:

Mullin, Bruce. *Moneygripe’s Apprentice: A personal Narrative of Samuel Seabury III*. Yale University Press, 1989.