



STEP INTO READING®

A HISTORY READER

George Washington ★ and the ★ General's Dog



by Frank Murphy illustrated by Richard Walz

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the fascinating world of non-fiction! Here you will find natural science, biography, history, sports . . . and more.

STEP INTO READING® NON-FICTION READERS include a huge selection of high-interest topics to engage young readers. No child can resist finding out about such topics as:

- Animals, both fuzzy and fierce
- Brave, bold, and brainy people
- Wild weather, such as twisters
- Life in the time of ice mummies or the Age of Dinosaurs
- Supersized trucks that leap into the air

Why should children read non-fiction? The benefits are enormous. First, children build their vocabularies, encountering words that may not come up in ordinary conversation but are needed to increase reading comprehension.

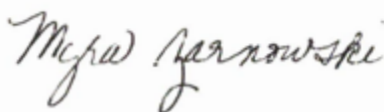
Second, non-fiction introduces children to a writing style that supports learning. When explaining new concepts, non-fiction writers often compare one thing with another. Comparisons make learning easy and fun.

Third, children build their store of background information. Context helps readers make important content connections, whether they are reading about history, biography, or natural science.

Last but not least, non-fiction books raise questions and motivate children to find answers.

The Common Core State Standards call on us to prepare children for college and careers by teaching them to read, write, and discuss non-fiction. **STEP INTO READING® NON-FICTION READERS** can help children meet this goal while enjoying informative, age-appropriate books.

Happy reading!



Myra Zarnowski
Professor, Elementary and Early Childhood Education
Queens College, City University of New York

Look for an F&P Text Level on the back of every book.



Learning to Read, Step by Step!



Ready to Read **Preschool–Kindergarten**

• big type and easy words • rhyme and rhythm • picture clues
For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.



Reading with Help **Preschool–Grade 1**

• basic vocabulary • short sentences • simple stories
For children who recognize familiar words and sound out new words with help.



Reading on Your Own **Grades 1–3**

• engaging characters • easy-to-follow plots • popular topics
For children who are ready to read on their own.



Reading Paragraphs **Grades 2–3**

• challenging vocabulary • short paragraphs • exciting stories
For newly independent readers who read simple sentences with confidence.



Ready for Chapters **Grades 2–4**

• chapters • longer paragraphs • full-color art
For children who want to take the plunge into chapter books but still like colorful pictures.

STEP INTO READING® is designed to give every child a successful reading experience. The grade levels are only guides; children will progress through the steps at their own speed, developing confidence in their reading. The F&P Text Level on the back cover serves as another tool to help you choose the right book for your child.

Remember, a lifetime love of reading starts with a single step!



*For my father—
like Washington, so brave and so honest
—F.M.*

*For Tom and Marianne—
wonderful people, wonderful friends
—R.W.*

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This book has been officially leveled by using the F&P Text Level Gradient™ Leveling System.

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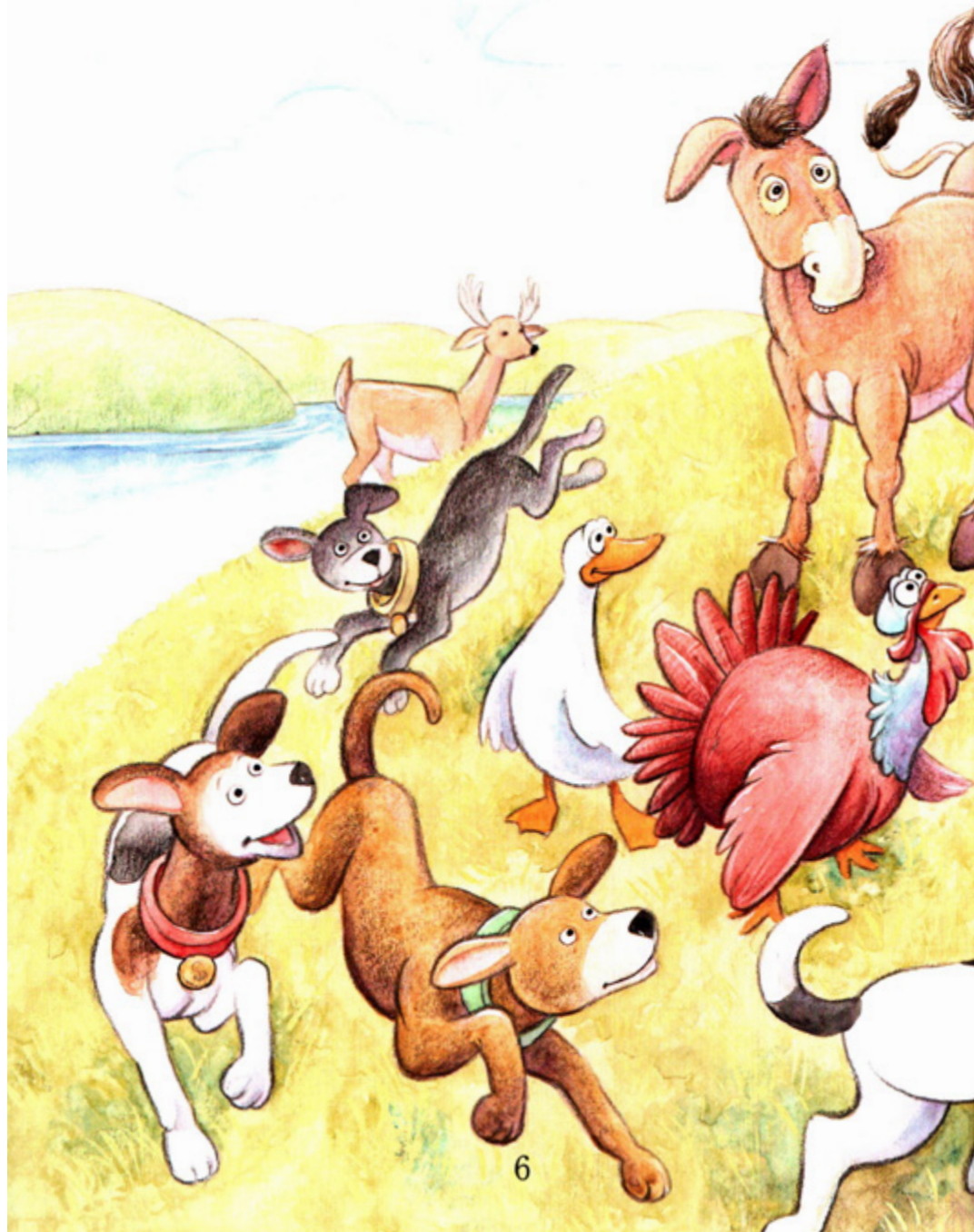
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George Washington is one of
America's greatest heroes.
Most people know that
George was honest and brave.
But there is something
about George that people
don't always know.

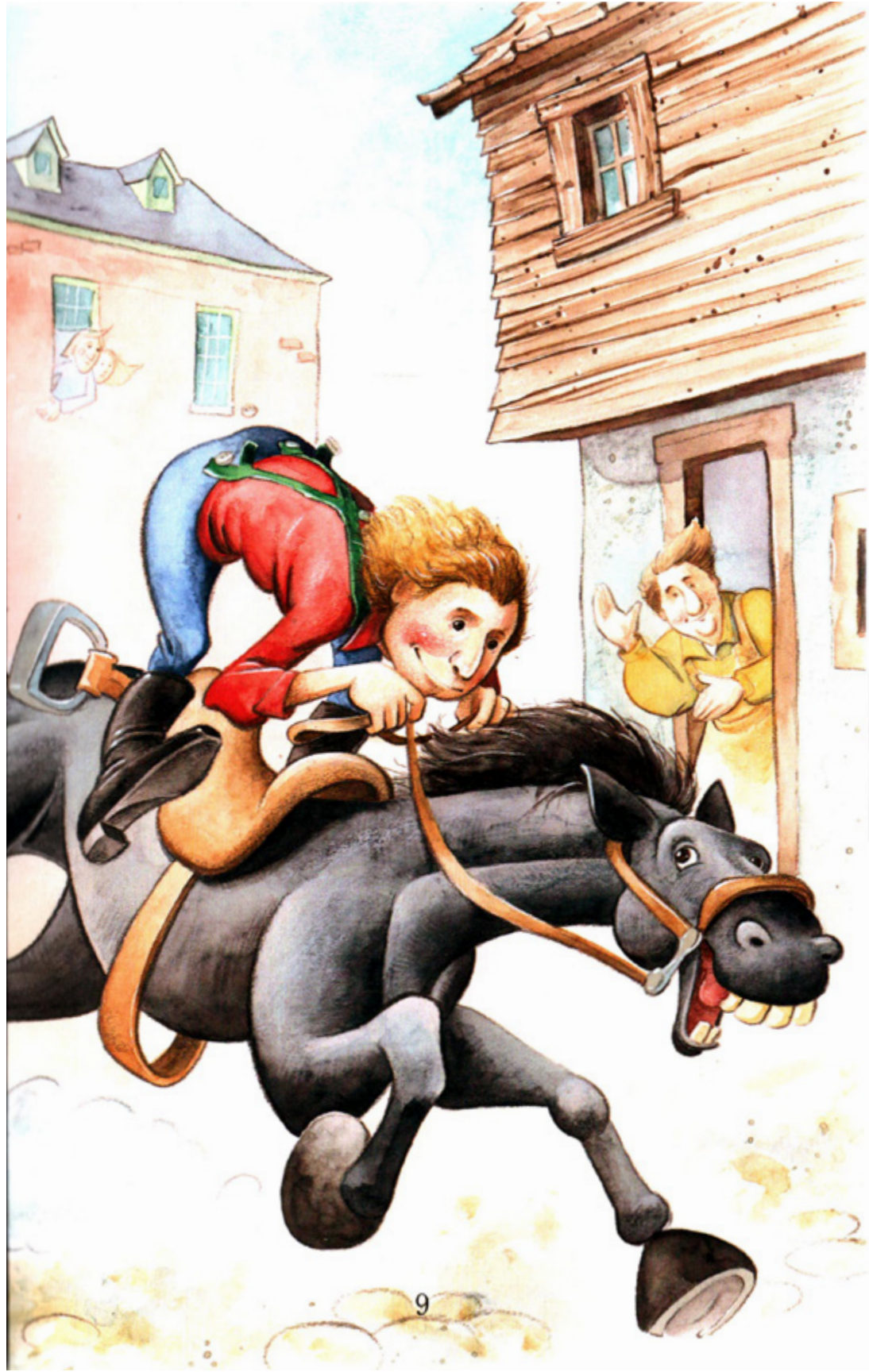
George Washington *loved* animals.



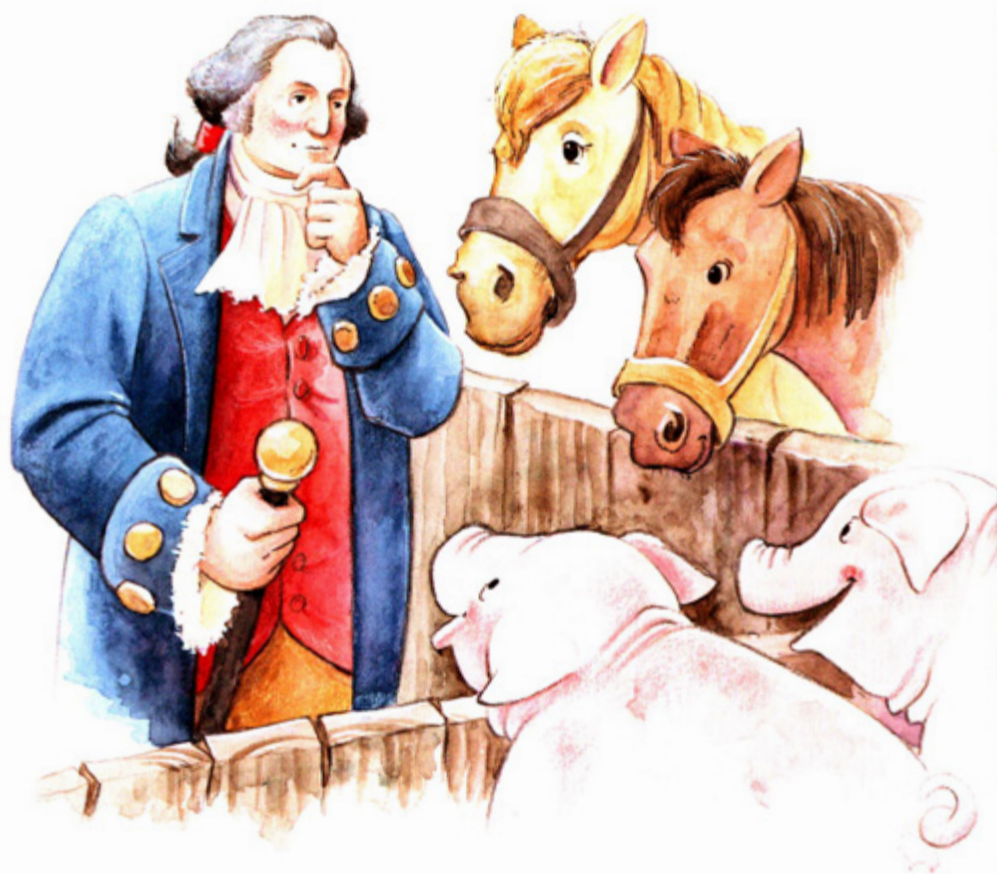


George learned
to ride horses as a boy.
Sometimes he rode into town.
George rode fast,
but he never fell.
People said
he was the best rider
they had ever seen.





When George grew up,
he moved to a farm
called Mount Vernon.
Every day,
George checked on
the horses and hogs.

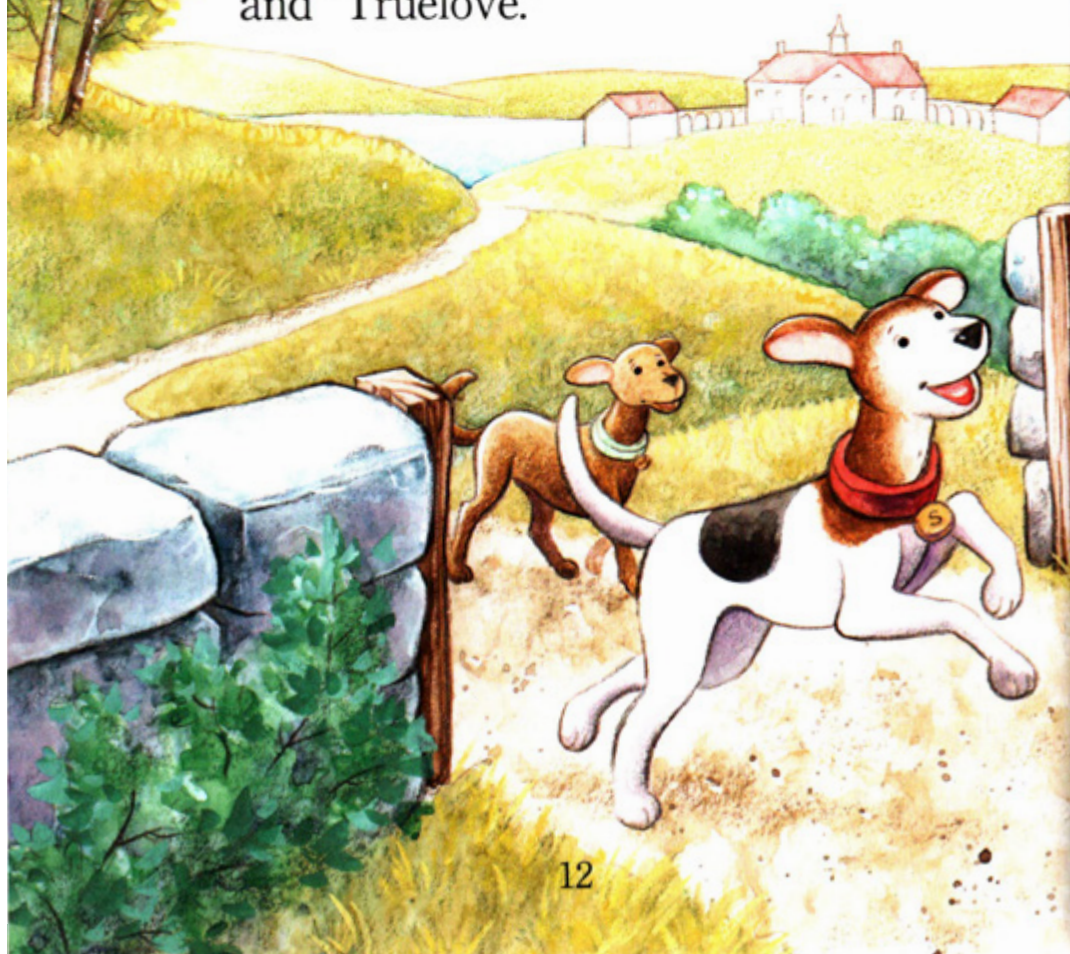


He checked on the oxen,
mules, and sheep.



But he spent the most
time with his dogs.

George had a *lot* of dogs.
He owned thirty-six dogs
in his lifetime.
He took them hunting.
He played with them.
He even gave them cute names
like “Mopsey,” “Sweetlips,”
and “Truelove.”







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Our first president loved animals.
So what happened when he found
a lost dog after a battle?



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