

## Worksheet

**THE NOBLEST REVENGE**

"I will have **revenge** on him, that I will, and make him heartily **repent** it," said Philip to himself, with a **countenance** quite red with anger. His mind was so engaged that he did not see Stephen, who happened at that instant to meet him.

"Who is that," said Stephen, "on whom you intend to be revenged?" Philip, as if awakened from a dream, stopped short, and looking at his friend, soon **resumed** a smile that was natural to his countenance.

"Ah," said he, "you remember my bamboo, a very pretty cane which was given me by my father, do you not? Look! There it is in pieces. It was farmer Robinson's son who reduced it to this worthless state." Stephen very coolly asked him what had **induced** young Robinson to break it. "I was walking peaceably along," replied he, "and was playing with my cane by twisting it round my body. By accident, one of the ends slipped out of my hand, when I was opposite the gate, just by the wooden bridge, where the ill natured fellow had put down a pitcher of water, which he was taking home from the well."

"It so happened that my cane, in springing back, upset the pitcher, but did not break it. He came up close to me, and began to call me names, when I **assured** him that what I had done had happened by accident, and that I was sorry for it. Without **regarding** what I said, he instantly seized my cane, and twisted it, as you see; but I will make him repent of it."

"To be sure," said Stephen, "he is a very wicked boy, and is already very properly punished for being such, since nobody likes him or will have anything to do with him. He can scarcely find a companion to play with him; and is often at a loss for amusement, as he deserves to be. This, properly **considered**, I think will appear sufficient revenge for you."

"All this is true," replied Philip, "but he has broken my cane. It was a present from my father, and a very pretty cane it was. I offered to fill his pitcher for him again, as I knocked it down by accident. I will be revenged."

"Now, Philip;" said Stephen, "I think you will act better in not minding him, as your **contempt** will be the best punishment you can **inflict** upon him. Be assured, he will always be able to do more mischief to you than you choose to do to him. And, now I think of it, I will tell you what happened to him not long since."

"Very unluckily for him, he chanced to see a bee **hovering** about a flower which he caught, and was going to pull off its wings out of sport, when the animal stung him, and flew away in safety to the hive. The pain put him into a furious passion, and, like you, he vowed revenge. He accordingly procured a stick, and thrust it into the beehive."

"In an instant the whole swarm flew out, and alighting upon him stung him in a hundred different places. He uttered the most piercing cries, and rolled upon the ground in the excess of

his **agony**. His father immediately ran to him, but could not put the bees to flight until they had stung him so severely that he was confined several days to his bed."

"Thus, you see, he was not very successful in his pursuit of revenge. I would advise you, therefore, to pass over his insult. He is a wicked boy, and much stronger than you; so that your **ability** to obtain this revenge may be doubtful."

"I must own," replied Philip, "that your advice seems very good. So come along with me, and I will tell my father the whole matter, and I think he will not be angry with me." They went, and Philip told his father what had happened. He thanked Stephen for the good advice he had given his son, and promised Philip to give him another cane exactly like the first.

A few days afterward, Philip saw this ill-natured boy fall as he was carrying home a heavy log of wood, which he could not lift up again. Philip ran to him, and helped him to replace it on his shoulder. Young Robinson was quite ashamed at the thought of this unmerited kindness, and heartily repented of his behaviour. Philip went home quite satisfied. "This," said he, "is the noblest vengeance I could take, in returning good for evil. It is impossible I should repent of it."

1. Match the word with its meaning. Use the passage to help you do this activity.

**Words****Meaning**

Resumed	return for an injury
Assured	to feel sorry for
Ability	the face
Considered	took again
Contempt	caused
Countenance	declared positively
Inflict	noticing
Agony	thought of carefully
Revenge	disdain, scorn
Hovering	to impose, to put on
Regarding	hanging over or about
Repent	very great pain
Induced	power