

Coversheet

"Back to the Future" Bicentennial Essay Contest

Name: Cheyenne Jefferson

"Back to the Future"

A Trip Through an Older Timeframe in a Kid's Point of View

"Settle down children! Class is now in session." You'd hear this in almost every modern classroom. But, believe it or not, kids in the 1800s heard that sentence too! It was a type of discipline to keep all of the students quiet. While there's that kind of discipline, there were also harsher ways teachers kept their students in check, like soldiers obeying their commander. There was a whole "List of Punishments", big enough to build an empire of words! But, I'll just narrow it down to the ones that'll give you chills!

The one that comes in third is definitely nightmare fuel. Are you sure you want to hear it? It will for sure scare the color out of you! Well, if you're sure you want to hear it, I'll tell you. The scary punishment I'm about to share with you is...sitting with the opposite gender as you! Dun, Dun, Dunnn! Okay, maybe it isn't so bad now, but back then it was terrifying.

Then, here is where we get to the spine tingling ones. In second place, we have the rulers. The ruler punishment was where the teacher used all their strength to slap their ruler on a misbehaving students' knuckles. Then, BAM! Red, stinging knuckles.

The very worst punishment is called, "The Paddle of Doom." *Ahem* Sorry, I get carried away sometimes. But yes, the teacher would take a wooden paddle, like a canoe paddle, and then just, WHAM, on the rear of the student who wasn't acting right. It's more painful than you think.

Besides discipline, school in 1818 was different in other ways too. Like, lunch and recess time! The students got one hour to eat their home-brought lunch and to get outside and use up all their energy. Back then, students didn't have recess on a traditional playground like a modern-day school would. I know what you're thinking, "lucky ducks," huh? Well, you're right! They could roam wherever they wanted to as long as they could hear the school bell signaling them to come back to class.

Finally, after they get back to class and finish their lessons, it's time to go home. Students didn't get on busses or in their parent's car because mechanical things weren't that advanced back then, of course! They had to walk lengths as close to or more than a mile. But, once they got home, they had more to do!

Speaking of home, let me tell you what goes on in theirs. (This section took me a lot of research since there is so much going on in the kids' houses, their elegant and in some cases, enormous, humble abodes.) Since back then things like dishwashers and washers and dryers weren't around, they had to do it manually. So, their parents made them do them as chores. Some of their chores were things like milking their cow to make butter, or girls helping their mom cook, or boys helping their father clean the barn. Now, let me tell you about their homes. Some types of homes were one story, two stories, ranch style homes, and houses with parlors. Parlors are where people played games, so they called it their "finest game room."

And, here's where I get to the fun section! Fun things kids did back then were very different from what modern-day kids do. Indoor games people liked to play were Checkers, Dominoes, and Pick Up Sticks. There are a lot more, but those are the main

three. Outdoor games 1800s kids like to play were Stick and Hoop, Baseball, and Tiddlywinks. Other popular games kids liked to play were cards, Jacks, and Graces.

All in all, the 1800s were a pretty good time to be alive. I hope you think so too!

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Name: Tyreese Thomas

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Do you know all kinds of facts about Mount Clemens? Let me tell you about Mount Clemens. Back in 1818, lots of things were different from now. Schools were different, homes were different, and even some of the games kids played were different.

In 1818, schools were only a one room building. There was only one teacher and a lot of children. The older kids had to help the younger kids with their work. The teacher disciplined the students if they had bad behavior. Also, the school was heated by a wooden stove. The boys had to go outside to chop wood for the stove. School was only held in the winter or summer since kids had to help on the farm.

The life of kids at home in the 1800s was quite different from now. The men and the boys had to grow the crops. The women and girls had to do something called, "slaving over a hot stove." It means women had to cook the food. The children had to help in spring and fall growing their crops.

Kids back in 1818 had lots of games they could play. Their main outside game was baseball. The kids also played Tiddlywink and Pick Up Sticks. To play Tiddlywink the player uses a disc called a Shooter to shoot it inside a cup. In Pick Up Sticks, players put the sticks in a pile and then pick out the sticks without moving the pile.

I told you all the interesting facts about how Mount Clemens was in 1818. But, I still would rather live in the 2000s than 1818! Especially because instead of farms, now people have jobs.

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Name: Dezmond Boyd

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Have you ever wanted to time travel back to 1818? Well, if you do, let me take you back in time.

Now, we are starting in 1818 at someone's house to see how the girls had to cook for the family. That was just one of the chores that the kids had to do back then. They had to milk the cows before they even went to school!

We have to leave the house really early because we have to walk two miles to get to school. Speaking of school, the bell is ringing and remember to NOT get into trouble or the teacher is going to have to discipline you with her paddle. Also, we're learning how to find the least common multiple in fractions! This is going to be hard...

Now it's time for recess. We can either play marbles, Stick and Hoop, Baseball, or Ring Around the Rosie. There's the bell, ringing again! Come on, we have to go back.

Overall, what I'm trying to say is the 1800s were good years for people back then.