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# **The Pioneers**

**LEVEL 4**

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*About the Author*

James Fenimore Cooper was born in Burlington, New Jersey in the year 1789. He was educated at Yale, and later joined the Navy. He began his writing career, by chance, when he and his wife were reading a novel together. James boasted that he could write a better book than the one they were reading. His wife challenged him, and James accepted the challenge. His first book, *Precaution* (1820), was not successful, but his second, *The Spy*, written the following year, received great reviews. Some of his novels include *The Pilot* (1823), *The Last of the Mohicans* (1826), *The Prairie* (1827), and *The Red Rover* (1828). He also authored *The Pioneers*, *The Pathfinder*, and *The Deerslayer*, the three of which are known as the Leatherstocking series. His daughter, Susan Fenimore Cooper, wrote *Rural Hours* in 1850, a year before her father's death.

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**Vocabulary Check Answer Key.....69**

## WORDS USED

Story 81	Story 82	Story 83	Story 84	Story 85
<b>KEY WORDS</b>				
buck leather reins rifle settler stocking	accident area hut servant shoulder wound	friendship future God guests mistress pray	action peace purpose settle sheriff turkey	claim reminded skill spent sugar suggested
<b>NECESSARY WORDS</b>				
ambush cloak concern descend quarry venison	bullet herb instrument minister treatment	forbid fuel grace service	appoint guilty lawyer responsibility sermon	annual assistant click sap

## WORDS USED

### Story 86

### Story 87

### Story 88

### Story 89

### Story 90

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#### KEY WORDS

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accept  
agree/agreed  
pigeons  
pride/prided  
rough  
spear

August  
greet/greeted  
January  
leap/leaped  
protection  
sight

arrest  
court  
information  
officer  
person  
prison

comfort  
duty  
jail  
objected  
perfect  
prisoner

death  
lightning  
pioneer  
shawl  
thunder  
tore

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#### NECESSARY WORDS

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bass  
bridle  
challenge (d)  
recover (ed)  
thrown

justice  
leash  
panther  
perch

document  
miner  
mining  
native  
offense  
ore

conscience  
jury  
oxen  
trial

adopted  
crackling  
graves  
pardon  
slick

# A Cold Winter's Day

## ***PREPARATION***

### ***Key Words***

<b>buck</b>	(buk)	a male deer <i>The hunter saw four <u>buck</u> in a herd of deer.</i>
<b>leather</b>	(leTH' ər)	material made from the skin of animals <i>Brandon wore a <u>leather</u> coat to keep himself warm.</i>
<b>reins</b>	(rānz)	straps that are attached to a bit and used to guide an animal <i>The wagon driver held tightly to the horses' <u>reins</u>.</i>
<b>rifle</b>	(ri' fəl)	a gun with a long barrel <i>The farmer aimed his <u>rifle</u> at the horse thief.</i>
<b>settler</b>	(set' lər)	someone that settles (makes his home in a new country) <i>The <u>settler</u> built a log cabin by the river.</i>
<b>stocking</b>	(stok' ing)	a covering of wool, cotton, silk, etc. for the foot and leg <i>Andy's <u>stockings</u> kept his feet and legs warm.</i>

# A Cold Winter's Day

## Necessary Words

- ambush** (am' bŭsh) a place where one hides in the hopes of surprising an animal or an enemy  
*The General told his men to take ambush in the woods.*
- cloak** (klōk) a loose piece of outer clothing, like a cape, usually without sleeves  
*Dan wore a cloak to the costume party.*
- concern** (kən sɜrn') a troubled interest or caring  
*Betty showed concern for her sick friend by bringing her some chicken soup.*
- descend** (di send') to come down from a higher place  
*The plane began to descend shortly after take-off.*
- quarry** (kwôr' ē) 1. an animal chased in a hunt; prey  
*The hunter looked for his quarry in the forest.*  
 2. a place where stone has been dug or blasted out for use in building  
*Mr. O'Hara works in the quarry sorting stones.*
- venison** (ven' ə sən) the flesh of a deer eaten as food; deer meat  
*The hunters prepared the venison for their dinner.*

## People

- Marmaduke** is the Judge's first name. Sometimes he is called Duke, or Marmaduke.
- Monsieur Le Quoi** is a man who left France after King Louis XVI had been killed. Many Frenchmen had left France and found safety in America. Monsieur Le Quoi was one such man. He owns a store in town. He sells goods to the settlers.

# A Cold Winter's Day



*Judge Temple fires his rifle at a buck.*

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
  2. Look at the picture.
  3. Read the sentence under the picture.
  4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
  5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that

- ☐ a. the Judge did not know how to use a rifle.
- ☐ b. the Judge's rifle did not work.
- ☐ c. the Judge killed a squirrel with his first shot.
- ☐ d. the Judge tried to kill a buck.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.*

**Now read the story.**

Read to find out what Judge Temple shot with his rifle.



# A Cold Winter's Day

In New York, on a cold Christmas Eve day in 1793, a sleigh moved slowly up the narrow mountain road. Judge Marmaduke Temple and his daughter Elizabeth rode in the sleigh pulled by bay horses. The Judge wore a heavy coat edged in fur. A cap with sides pulled down covered his ears. His daughter was bundled up in a man's cloak. Suddenly, loud sounds came from the forest.

The Judge called to the black driver, "Hold up, Aggy. The Leather-stocking has put his hounds into the hills. This clear day they have started their game." He looked up the road and pointed. "There are deer track a few steps over there." The driver pulled on the reins to stop the horses.

Temple got out of the sleigh and took a rifle from among the trunks in the back. A fine buck ran in the path near him. The Judge put his gun up and fired. The deer dashed forward. The Judge fired the rifle again, still not hitting the buck. The sound of another shot rang out. The buck flew into the air. Then another shot sounded through the forest. When the buck fell back to earth, two men appeared from behind the pines.

The Judge cried, "Natty, had I known you were in ambush, I should have not fired on this quarry."

"No, no, Judge," returned the old hunter, stepping out of the pines. "You used your gun only to warm your nose this cold day. Your gun would not have killed this quarry, even from an ambush."

The old hunter, Nathaniel (Natty) Bumppo, called Leather-stocking by the settlers, was a tall man. He wore a cap made of

fox skin over his sandy-colored hair. His deer-skin coat was belted close to his body. He wore long, leather stockings. These leather stockings were clipped to his pants.

Judge Temple and the old man talked about who killed the deer. The young hunter with Leather-stocking pointed out four holes in a tree. These holes were made by the Judge's rifle.

"And the fifth?" the Judge asked.

The young man opened his cloak. Blood ran from his side. Judge Temple showed concern by offering to take the young hunter to the doctor in the village.

The young man refused to go. Judge Temple then offered to buy the deer, but the man shook his head and replied, "I have need of the venison."

"This money would *buy* lots of venison," said the Judge.

Elizabeth now showed her concern, too. She wanted to take the young man to the village for help. When he finally said he would go with them, Leather-stocking refused to go.

The horses drew the sleigh over the mountain toward the village. A lake, locked in cold for the winter, looked like a snowy plain. The village of Templeton stood at the foot of the lake. Judge Temple's large home of stone towered over the settlers' homes. Smoke poured out from the chimneys of his house.

As they made their way alongside a quarry, a four-man sleigh came fast up the mountain. The two sleighs were close upon each other before either was seen.

The four-man sleigh, drawn by four horses, drew nearer. Its driver shouted, "Draw up in the quarry or I shall never be able

to pass you!"

Both drivers stopped their horses. The four men inside the large sleigh got out and greeted the Temples. When the two sleigh drivers tried to turn the four-man sleigh, it leaned over the edge of the mountain road.

The Judge exclaimed, "They will all be killed!" Elizabeth gave a loud cry. The young man traveling with them got out of the sleigh. He took hold of the reins. He turned the horses around so they could descend to the village.

The driver of the large sleigh was Richard Jones. He was Aggy's master. Jones saw the buck on Mr. Temple's sleigh. He told the group about his own killing of a deer.

Aggy spoke up. "Natty Bumppo fired the other gun. You know, sir, all the people say Natty kill him."

Jones said, "They lie. . ." He spoke to the black driver, Aggy, and reminded him of *his* side of the story. Aggy was afraid of his master, so he listened to his master tell about his shooting.

"Well, well, 'Duke will say no more about my deer. The Judge fired both barrels. He hit nothing but a poor young man who was behind a pine tree."

The Judge left Aggy on the mountain to help Jones fix his sleigh. Marmaduke made room for the others in his sleigh. Monsieur Le Quoi, Major Hartmann, and Mr. Grant got into the sleigh.

Judge Temple then took the reins of his sleigh to descend the mountain to Templeton. After his sleigh was fixed, Jones took the reins and began to descend the mountain, too, with sleigh bells ringing.

# A Cold Winter's Day

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

**Choose the best answer.**

1. This story opens on  
☐ a. a cold Easter morning.  
☐ b. Thanksgiving Day.  
☐ c. Christmas Eve day.  
☐ d. Elizabeth's birthday.
2. What were the sounds that Temple heard that made him tell Aggy to stop the sleigh?  
☐ a. Running Deer  
☐ b. Running Horses  
☐ c. Leather-stockings' hounds  
☐ d. Gun shots
3. When Temple saw deer tracks,  
☐ a. he took out his rifle.  
☐ b. he took out his bow and arrow.  
☐ c. he covered the tracks to keep the deer safe.  
☐ d. he sent Aggy into the woods to kill the deer.
4. Natty Bumppo was called Leather-stockings because  
☐ a. he liked the name.  
☐ b. he wore leather shoes.  
☐ c. he kept leather in his stockings.  
☐ d. he wore leather stockings.
5. Judge Temple had missed the buck, but he shot  
☐ a. Leather-stockings.  
☐ b. the young man who was with Leather-stockings.  
☐ c. a buffalo.  
☐ d. a goat.

### Preview Answer:

- d. the Judge tried to kill a buck.

6. First the Judge fired at a buck. Then Natty and a young man appeared from behind some trees. Next,  
☐ a. the buck flew into the air after being hit.  
☐ b. Leather-stockings' friend pointed out four holes in a tree.  
☐ c. Leather-stockings' friend showed that he had been shot.  
☐ d. Abby took off with the sleigh.
7. Who was driving the four-man sleigh that came fast up the mountain?  
☐ a. Barnaby Jones  
☐ b. Tom Jones  
☐ c. Marmaduke  
☐ d. Aggy's master
8. Old Leather-stockings kills animals for  
☐ a. fun.  
☐ b. food.  
☐ c. their fur.  
☐ d. their food and fur.
9. Another name for this story could be  
☐ a. "A Young Hunter is Shot."  
☐ b. "Sleigh Bells."  
☐ c. "The Hunt."  
☐ d. "Going Home."
10. This story is mainly about  
☐ a. life in the mountains.  
☐ b. the dangers of hunting.  
☐ c. how a young man came to be shot.  
☐ d. why Abby was afraid of his master.

*Check your answers with the Key on page 67.*

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# A Cold Winter's Day

## VOCABULARY CHECK

buck	leather	reins	rifle	settler	stocking
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### I. Sentences to Finish

*Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct key word from the box above.*

- The cat scratched at Mother's leg and put a hole in her \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mark aimed his \_\_\_\_\_ at the wild bear coming near.
- With a single shot, the hunter brought down the \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Has anyone seen my \_\_\_\_\_ belt?" asked Sam.
- The English \_\_\_\_\_ found life hard in the New World.
- "Hold on to the \_\_\_\_\_, or you'll fall off the horse," said Father.

### II. Making Sense of Sentences

*Put a check next to YES if the sentence makes sense. Put a check next to NO if the sentence does not make sense.*

- Marie called a **settler** when her car hit a dog. \_\_\_\_\_YES \_\_\_\_\_NO
- Josephine has a run in her **stocking**. \_\_\_\_\_YES \_\_\_\_\_NO
- Ralph's **leather** gloves keep his hands warm. \_\_\_\_\_YES \_\_\_\_\_NO
- Andy chased the **buck** deep into the woods. \_\_\_\_\_YES \_\_\_\_\_NO
- Mother always says when it **reins** it pours. \_\_\_\_\_YES \_\_\_\_\_NO
- George's **rifle** helped put the baby to sleep. \_\_\_\_\_YES \_\_\_\_\_NO

*Check your answers with the Key on page 69.*

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