

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL COMPARISONS DEVELOPMENTAL TASKS

Read the following vignettes to the students:

#1 "I will have to be gone for one week to get the supplies we need from town," a farmer told his wife. "These supplies will last us the winter. While I'm gone, Billy will be able to take care of the 40 acres of tobacco plants, and he is old enough now to use the rifle in case of an Indian or wild animal attack."

How old do you think Billy is? His full name was William Clark. He later became famous for his exploration of the West with his friend and partner, Merriweather Lewis. At the time of this quote by his father, he was 6 years old. He was not unlike other boys his age at that time.

#2 "Jonathan is in charge of hunting all the meat for our family. If we have turkey on Thanksgiving or Christmas, it will be thanks to him. During the rest of the year, whether or not we have meat for our meals, or enough to dry and store, is up to Jonathan. If he has a bad hunting day, we eat vegetables."

How old do you think Jonathan is? 12 years old.

Ask students what responsibilities they had at 6 and 12, and if they would like to go back to the days when so much was required of young boys.

Life in the past trained young people to be self-reliant and responsible. What activities do young people have today that nurture the same qualities?

(Attending school regularly, completing homework on time, taking care of household chores, babysitting, yard work, etc.)

Both of these examples of family expectations for young boys were taken from the historic novel "From Sea to Shining Sea" by Thom Alexander. The John Rogers Clark family lived at the time of the American Revolutionary War; the quotes reflect the lifestyle of their family and others like them during 1770-1780.

DEVELOPMENTAL TASKS

**SKILLS REQUIRED FOR
SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION
FROM CHILDHOOD TO
ADULTHOOD**