Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis
DTDL Battle of the Books 2010

Pg 3 What is Preacher’s full name with titles? Right Reverend Deacon Doctor Zephariah Connerly the Third. (Tie-Breaker?)

Pg 3 What do Elijah and Cooter call the “Right Reverend Deacon Doctor Zephariah Connerly the Third”? A: Preacher

Pg 6 What happens after a hoop snake bites you? You begin swelling and after 7 ½ days, you explode and then your head lives another week

Pg 9 What is Elijah’s last name? Freeman

Pg 13 What did Elijah and Cooter put in Ma’s sewing basket? A: 1 pt. frog 2 pt. toady-frog??

Pg 18 What kind of cookies did Mrs. Brown bake and share? Sugar cookies and rope cookies

Pg 18 What kind of cookie does Elijah’s mom say is in their cookie jar that is really a snake? A: rope cookie

Pg 19 What was in the cookie jar? A snake

Pg 20 Why did Ma put a snake in the cookie jar? To teach Elijah a lesson

Pg 25 What was the tragedy attached to Elijah’s name? He threw up on Mr. Frederick Douglass

Pg 26 Who did Elijah throw up on as a baby? Fredrick Douglas

Pg 24 Who established Buxton? Reverend King

Pg 24 Why was Elijah special? He was the first child to be born free in Buxton (the Elgin Settlement at Raleigh in Canada West.)

Pg 26 What were some of the tale stories told about the throwing up incident? He threw up for ½ hour, he nearly drowned a man, he threw up so much that the desks and chairs floated out of the school, the wolves and bears ate vomit for 5 years! (Tie-breaker?)

Pg 29 Where does Elijah do chores after school? the stable

Pg 29 How does Mr. Segee know that Elijah is on his way? Old Flapjack gets worked up

Pg 35 What is the name of Elijah’s favorite riding mule? A: Old Flap Jack

Pg 29/30 What are the 2 parts of Elijah’s stable work? The working part and the enjoying part

Pg 30 Describe the working part of Elijah’s stable work. Cleaning the stalls, shoveling the manure and taking it to the fertilizer pile, feeding and watering the animals

Pg 30 Describe the enjoying part of Elijah’s stable work. Brushing the animals, tending to their hooves and comforting them by keeping the horseflies off of them

Pg 30 What is a fly swah? A fly swatter

Pg 31 Where does Elijah get his bait for fishing? A: he swats horseflies off the animals in the stable.
What is the good sound that means that the horsefly isn't dead, but bait? Pah-dop

How cold was the winter of '53? The flames on the candles froze solid and the sun was frozen in place halfway across the sky.

What did Elijah ask Mr. Segee every Friday night? Is it OK to take Old Flapjack out for a spell?

What did Preacher think of Elijah's rock throwing? It has the look of conjuring or may be the work of the devil pg 40 May be witnessing a gift from Jesus or it sure is unnatural

Where did Old Flapjack spend his time while Elijah fished? In the blackberry bushes

Name 2 things that make a perfect fishing throw for Elijah. Fish is knocked out & stays on the top of the water, the rock bounces off & lands far enough away with no splash to scare the other big fish

How many fish did Preacher “tithe” away from Elijah? 4

Who were the second and third children born in Buxton? Emma Collins and Philip Wise

What happened to the two white Stallions that the two white men from America had been riding before they died?
Answer: One spooked and bolted, showing up later in Buxton eating Mrs. Highgates black-eyed Susies; the other, the Preacher rode to Toronto and sold it there.

Who built most of Mrs. Holton’s house? Mr. Leroy

What did Mr. Travis write on the blackboard? “Familiarity breeds contempt”

What was Cooter’s translation of “Familiarity breeds contempt?” Family breeding contest

What attraction was coming to the Buxton area from Chicago? The Carnival of Oddities

How much did it cost to see Madame Sabbar? 10 cents

What did Madame Sabbar use to put out the candles? Rocks and a slingshot

Who played MaWee in the carnival? Jimmie Blassingame

How much did the Preacher pay for him and Elijah to see the Conjurer/Mesmerist at the Carnival?
Answer: Two American quarters

What was Elijah afraid was going to happen to him in the Conjurermesmerist’s tent at the Carnival?
Answer: He was going to float away/levitate

What does the Preacher call Elijah when talking to the Conjurer about him?
Answer: Ahbo

With whom does Elijah race to put out the candles at the Carnival?
Answer: Madam Sabbar

Why does Emma Collins let the “sin of envy choke her heart”?
Answer: Elijah beat her at being the first child born free in Buxton by 6 days.
What did Old Flapjack do when he saw or smelled something that “weren’t regular?”

What did Elijah see in the woods when he was plowing? Two people, a man and a boy

Whose job is it to carry the runaway slaves that come to Buxton the last step into being free? Answer: Emma Collins

What did Emma Collins tote everywhere but school? A sock doll (a frightsome mess)

What did Elijah and Emma Collins have in common? They are both “fra-gile”

How does Elijah blow his nose? He plugs one side and blows it out of the other onto the ground or onto his shirtsleeve for his mother’s sake

What does Emma give the new-free girl who comes to the settlement? Answer: Her doll named Birdy

How heavy is the Liberty Bell? 500 pounds

Where was the Liberty Bell made? Pittsburgh, PA

How many times does the Liberty Bell get rung for each new-free person who arrives in Buxton? Answer: 20 times for each person, ten for their old lives and ten more for their new lives.

After the Liberty Bell was rung, what did the new-free folks do? Climb the ladder to the steeple and rub the bell with their left hand

How many times did Cooter and Elijah ring the Liberty Bell? 100 times

What was Liza Taylor’s real name? Alice Duncan

What was one of Elijah’s “favouritest” chores? Going to Chatham to check on the mail

Name 2 people in Chatham who had accidents with their horses. Mr. Larry Butler, of the post office and Mr. MacMahon, the storekeeper

Who took their school lessons at night? All the “growned folks” who hadn’t learned to read or write while they were slaves in America

Before visiting Mrs. Holton with the letter from Virginia, what behavior did Elijah’s mother warn him against? Crying and carrying on & tearing out of the house screaming

How many people joined Elijah and his mother to deliver the letter to Mrs. Holton? 12

When had Mrs. Holton’s letter been written? A bout year before it arrived in Buxton

What did Mrs. Holton’s letter tell her? That her husband died under the whip

What would Elijah rather do than sit through a whole morning and afternoon of church? Clean 5 stables, dig 2 miles of drainage ditch, and clear 3 acres of woodland

Where was the after church picnic? On the shores of Lake Erie
Pg 209 What is the reason for the first time that Elijah’s Ma, when she was a girl, was hit by her own Ma? Answer: Because she was close enough to see Canada, but she didn’t try to run away to freedom. (p.209 PB)

Pg 212 At the beach what did Pa do with his piece of Ma’s peach pie? He buried it

Pg 218 How much did Elijah earn for rewording Mrs. Holton’s sign? A nickel

Pg 219 What was Mr. Leroy’s pay for carving a memorial sign for Mrs. Holton? A box with $2200 in gold

Pg 219 How much money does Mrs. Holton give to Mr. Leroy for him to use to get his family out of slavery? Answer: Twenty-two hundred dollars in gold

Pg 221 What day did John Holton die? Answer: May 7th, 1859

Pg 220 How was Mr. Leroy going to use the carving money? He was going to buy his wife and two children from slavery

Pg 225 Whom of Mr. Leroy’s family was he planning on freeing first before Mrs. Holton game him the money? Answer: His son ‘Zekial so that he could help him work and raise more money for the others.

Pg 230 Who volunteered to arrange for the purchase of Leroy’s family? The Preacher

Pg 231 What did Pa think about the Preacher having Leroy’s money? He advised caution, because they didn’t know much about the Preacher

Pg 231 What did Pa know about the Preacher (Zeph)? He didn’t live in the settlement, didn’t work regular, he was gone for long spells of time, he carried a $100 pistol, he was smart and very young

Pg 233 Who did Pa suggest as a traveling companion for Preacher? Theodore Highgate

Pg 236 What did Preacher give to Mr. Leroy to hold until he returned? His fancy pistol

Pg 238 How many days passed before Buxton knew what happened to Preacher and Theodore Highgate? 5

Pg 241 What happened to Mr. Highgate? Preacher shot him

Pg 244 What did Preacher intend to do with Mr. Leroy’s money? Gamble with it

Pg 245 How does the Preacher get away from Mr. Highgate with all the money? Answer: He unloaded Mr. Highgate’s pistol when he was sleeping

Pg 254 Where was Elijah supposed to be while Ma & Pa were at the meeting about Preacher? At Cooter’s house

Pg 260 What happened as Elijah was creeping up to eavesdrop at the church? He was grabbed and kidnapped

Pg 262 Who snatched Elijah? Mr. Leroy

Pg 263 Why did Mr. Leroy want Elijah along for the trip to the village in Michigan? Elijah could read and Mr. Leroy was not comfortable dealing with white folks

Pg 264 Why was Elijah relieved that Mr. Leroy was kidnapping him? Because he wouldn’t be in near as much trouble
What does Elijah pack to take with him when he and Mr. Leroy leave to go find the Preacher? Answer: a book, 20 of his best chunking stones, ‘Mr. Taylor’s sullied knife,’ and the piece of paper with the address of the man who helped Mr. Highgate.

Where did Elijah and Mr. Leroy catch the ferry to Michigan? Windsor, Ontario, Canada

How did Elijah care for Jingle Boy on the Michigan trip? He cooled him in the river and cautioned Mr. Leroy not run the horse so hard

Who were Elijah and Mr. Leroy looking for at the tavern? Mr. Benjamin Alston

How was Mr. Leroy looking after talking to Mr. Alston? Mighty worried and afear

On the way to East Lee stable, what happened to Mr. Leroy? He fell off of Jingle Boy and landed on his face in the dirt

What did Mr. Leroy want Elijah to promise? That he would get the money from Preacher and gut shoot him

As Mr. Leroy was dying, what name did he call Elijah? Ezekial, his son

How did Elijah deal with the dog at the stable? He used his chunking stones

In what order did Elijah’s senses tell him about the East Lee stable? Ears, nose, eyes. The animals sounded OK, the smell was strange & then his eyes adjusted to the dark

Who was at the other end of the East Lee stable? Preacher

Why was Preacher being so still in the stable? He was dead.

What were the “bundles” in the stable? Five squatted down demons or people. Slaves recaptured to be sent back to slavery.

What did the 4 armed “bundle” ask Elijah? “Is you real or is you a haint?”

What did Elijah give to the woman with the baby? A gourd of water

How did Elijah help the chained men in the stable? He held the water gourd for them to drink

How did Elijah help the boy in the stable? He wiped his nose and held the water gourd for him to drink

Why did Elijah feel shame when he learned that Preacher was dead? Because he was relieved that he wouldn’t have to keep his word and kill him

What would remind Elijah of Preacher’s death? Emma’s old doll, Birdy

What was Elijah going to try to do for the people in the stable? He was going to free them and get them away, stealing the horses in the stable.

Who was in charge of the 5 people in the stable? Massa Prayder

What was the baby’s mother’s name? Chloe
Pg 302  What was the baby’s father’s name? Kamau

Pg 321  Who did Elijah think would help the people in the stable? Mr. Alston

Pg 325  What was talking to Elijah when he realized that he was going to break his promise to Mrs. Chloe? His conscience

Pg 328  What squashes the happiness out of Elijah? A grownup telling him that they are disappointed in something that he did

Pg 338  What was the baby’s name? Hope Too-mah-ee-nee

Pg 340  How did Elijah carry the baby as they rode Jingle-Boy? In a tote sack on his back