

Autobiography of Ben Franklin

Benjamin Franklin

Why does Franklin describe his dirty clothes, little money, and awkward appearance in such detail?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	An awkward entrance becomes evidence of later change
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Arrival in Philadelphia
START	I have been the more particular in this description of my journey
END	thought I made, as I certainly did, a most awkward, ridiculous appearance.
PASSAGE ID	sec-bf-02

THE MOVE

Use retrospective comparison to give ordinary detail significance

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Franklin carefully records his dirty clothes, little money, bread under his arm, and awkward appearance because the later reader knows what he will become. Ordinary embarrassment gains meaning through comparison with the future.

MARK

Circle the details that make Franklin's arrival look unimpressive or comic. Underline any retrospective comment that asks the reader to compare this young man with his later life. Star the detail whose significance depends most on hindsight.

NOTICE

- Why would these details seem trivial if the narrator's later success were unknown?
- How does hindsight transform embarrassment into evidence of change?
- What kind of story about success is Franklin building by preserving the awkward beginning?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Franklin describe his dirty clothes, little money, and awkward appearance in such detail? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Franklin describe his dirty clothes, little money, and awkward appearance in such detail? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The awkward details matter because hindsight turns them into a baseline. Franklin's later success makes dirty clothes, little money, and bread under his arm evidence of how far the life will change.
EVIDENCE	Use several ordinary arrival details and connect them to the older narrator's retrospective awareness of what this young man will become.
WATCH FOR	Do not treat the details as comic decoration only. Their significance depends on the future the narrator already knows.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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Why does Franklin describe his dirty clothes, little money, and awkward appearance in such detail?

START ANCHOR	I have been the more particular in this description of my journey
END ANCHOR	thought I made, as I certainly did, a most awkward, ridiculous appearance.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Circle the details that make Franklin's arrival look unimpressive or comic. Underline any retrospective comment that asks the reader to compare this young man with his later life. Star the detail whose significance depends most on hindsight.
2. **NOTICE** - Why would these details seem trivial if the narrator's later success were unknown? How does hindsight transform embarrassment into evidence of change? What kind of story about success is Franklin building by preserving the awkward beginning?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why does Franklin describe his dirty clothes, little money, and awkward appearance in such detail?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.