

# SIGN OF THE BEAVER

## *Musical Interlude*

*Townspeople move around the town*

Townsperson 1: \_\_\_\_\_

I hear your family is leaving Quincy.

Matt's Father 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes we are – to the territory of Maine.

Townsperson 2: \_\_\_\_\_

It's all wilderness out there.

Matt's Sister 1: \_\_\_\_\_

We'll be the first ones out there.

Townsperson 3: \_\_\_\_\_

You won't be afraid?

Townsperson 4: \_\_\_\_\_

All alone with the Indians?

Townsperson 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Don't scare them!

Matt 1: \_\_\_\_\_

There's nothing to be scared about. Right, Pa?

Matt's Mother 1: \_\_\_\_\_

And there's been no trouble in many years.

Matt's Father 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Should we ever meet an Indian we shall be very polite.

Matt 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, and speak to him like you would a minister.

TOWNSPERSON 6: \_\_\_\_\_

His father spread out the surveyor's map and traced the boundaries of the land he had purchased in Maine Territory.

TOWNSPERSON 7: \_\_\_\_\_

They would be the first settler's in a new township.

TOWNSPERSON 8: \_\_\_\_\_

In the spring when the ice melted, Matt and his father would travel north.

TOWNSPERSON 9: \_\_\_\_\_

When they found their claim of land they would clear a patch of ground, build a cabin, and plant some corn.

TOWNSPERSON 10: \_\_\_\_\_

In the summer, his father would go back to Massachusetts to fetch his mother and sister and the new baby.

TOWNSPERSON 11: \_\_\_\_\_

Matt would stay behind and guard the cabin and the corn patch.

Matt 2: \_\_\_\_\_

You're giving me your gun?

Matt's Father 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Hold it so that nothing can take it away. And when you are not holding it keep it near. It will protect you and keep you safe. One day you will look down there and see us coming

Matt 2: \_\_\_\_\_

I'll be waiting. Promise.

Matt's Father 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Give me your hand. (*He hands him a watch*) My fathers, mine, and now yours. (*They hug.*) We'll be back in six weeks for the harvest.

TOWNSPERSON 12: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew headed back to the cabin they had built

TOWNSPERSON 13: \_\_\_\_\_

Already he realized that time was going to move slowly

TOWNSPERSON 14: \_\_\_\_\_

Although the cabin was finished his father had left him an endless list of  
chores.

TOWNSPERSON 15: \_\_\_\_\_

To cook a meal for himself he had to keep a fire going.

TOWNSPERSON 16: \_\_\_\_\_

The corn patch needed constant tending

TOWNSPERSON 17: \_\_\_\_\_

And the mosquitoes were very annoying.

TOWNSPERSON 18: \_\_\_\_\_

He would have like to have someone to talk to.

TOWNSPERSON 19: \_\_\_\_\_

Even his sister, Sarah, though he never paid much mind to her back home.

*Musical Interlude – Scene Change*

Ben: \_\_\_\_\_

Hello son, Nice place you got here. Where's your pa?

Matt 3: \_\_\_\_\_

He'll be back

Ben: \_\_\_\_\_

Reckon you don't get much company around here.

Matt 3: \_\_\_\_\_

No we don't

Ben: \_\_\_\_\_

Then your pappy wouldn't want you to turn way a visitor would he?

Matt 3: \_\_\_\_\_

I could spare you food some if you are stopping.

Ben: \_\_\_\_\_

That's a nice gun.

Matt 3: \_\_\_\_\_

My pa don't want people touching it!

Ben: \_\_\_\_\_

Indians come calling yet?

Matt 3: \_\_\_\_\_

They're friendly, though, aren't they

Ben: \_\_\_\_\_

I don't think so –they won't leave this land!

Matt 3: \_\_\_\_\_

You better leave – It's getting dark out.

Ben: \_\_\_\_\_

I won't be able to find my way back to camp. Maybe I'll sleep here tonight.

Matt 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Fine. Good night.

Trapper 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Matt was determined not to shut his eyes but he finally fell asleep.

Trapper 2: \_\_\_\_\_

When he woke up the cabin door was open and the man was gone.

Trapper 3: \_\_\_\_\_

It was then that he noticed that his father's rifle was gone.

Matt 3: \_\_\_\_\_

No! Ben Loomis!

Trapper 4: \_\_\_\_\_

What would his father think of him.

TOWNSPERSON 20: \_\_\_\_\_

Days later Matt was getting hungry

TOWNSPERSON 21: \_\_\_\_\_

He remembered the bee tree he and his father discovered weeks ago.

TOWNSPERSON 22: \_\_\_\_\_

One morning he made up his mind to climb that tree.

TOWNSPERSON 23:

It would be worth a sting or two.

TOWNSPERSON 24:

It was an easy climb.

TOWNSPERSON 25:

When he got to the golden mass of honeycomb he gave it a tug.

TOWNSPERSON 26:

And with it came the bees.

TOWNSPERSON 27:

Matt felt a sharp pain on his neck.

TOWNSPERSON 28:

Then another and another.

TOWNSPERSON 29:

The bees were all around him.

TOWNSPERSON 29:

If he could reach the water he could escape the bees!

TOWNSPERSON 30:

He went stumbling to the water's edge.

TOWNSPERSON 31:

His foot caught in a fallen branch and he sank into the icy water.

Saknis:

Do not move! Bee needles have poison. We will get you out!

SCENE # \_\_\_\_\_

Saknis:

Good. White boy was very sick. Now he is well.

Matthew:

Good morning.

Saknis:

I am Saknis, family of beaver.

Matt:

I'm Matthew Hallowell.

Saknis:

This is my grandson, Attean.

Attean:

Beaver women make better white man's boots.

Matt:

Thank you. This is for you. (Hands Attean Robinson Crusoe). Please take it.

Saknis:

White boy knows signs?

Matt:

Yes, I can read it.

Saknis:

Good. White boy teach Attean what the book says.

Attean:

NO!

Saknis:

Attean will learn to read white man's signs so that we don't give away our  
hunting grounds in treaty.

SCENE # \_\_\_\_\_

TOWNSPERSON 32:

Matt taught Attean how to read.

TOWNSPERSON 33:

It took a really long time.

TOWNSPERSON 34:

And then Attean taught Matt how to use a bow and arrow.

TOWNSPERSON 35:

Matt wanted to tell his father about what he had learned.

TOWNSPERSON 36:

But what had happened to his father?

TOWNSPERSON 37:

Had he gotten into an accident?

TOWNSPERSON 38:

Had his father met with a bear?

TOWNSPERSON 39:

His mother wouldn't know how to find him.

TOWNSPERSON 40:

But that's not what happened.

TOWNSPERSON 41:

Mean while back in Quincy ...

Mary:

Help me! Laura has collapsed.

Matt's Mom:

She's burning with the fever.

Sarah:

I'll fetch some water, Mama.

Mary:

IS she going to be all right?

Matt's Mom:

I don't know, Mary.

Sarah:

Mama! The baby won't wake up!

Matt's Mom:

No!

Sarah:

Has the fever come to take my baby brother away?

Matt's mom:

We'll never make it Matthew now.

Matt's Father:

The river is frozen shut. We will have to wait three more week and then  
build a sled.

Saknis:

Indian are leaving to go north soon.

Attean

I can not come to learn white man's sign anymore.

Saknis:

White father has not come.

Matt:

He ought to be here any day now.

Attean:

Snow come soon. You can not bee here alone.

Saknis:

You will come with the Indians

Matt:

I promised my father that I would keep the land and wait for him. I will not go with you.

Saknis:

You are a good son.

Matt:

You have been very good friends to me, But I have to stay.

Attean:

I would do the same for my father, White brother. Your father come soon.

TOWNSPERSON: Although the Indians were gone, Matt felt happ.

TOWNSPERSON:

Winter had come but he was not afraid.

TOWNSPERSON:

The cabin was warm and welcoming..

TOWNSPERSON:

Days later he gather a pile of firewood to dry inside.

TOWNSPERSON:

While he was outside he notices a dark shape moving in the distance.

Matt:  
PA! You've come!

Matt's father:  
I'm so glad you're safe!

Matt's Mom:  
I hated thinking about you all alone.

Matt:  
I wasn't alone. I had the Indians.

Sarah:  
Indians! What are they like?

Matt's father:  
You've done a grown man's job.

Matt's Mom:  
We're proud of you.

TOWNSPERSON:  
Matt took his family inside the warm cabin.

TOWNSPERSON:

He cooked one of his special stews for supper

TOWNSPERSON:

They all sat together around the table and bowed their heads in thanks.

TOWNSPERSON:

Later Matt would tell them of his adventure and of his Indian brother Attean.