

## GEORGE AND THE APPLE TREE

Divide the group into four smaller groups and assign each group one of the words listed below. Read the story. After each of the words is read pause for the group to make the appropriate response.

GEORGE	By George
APPLE TREES	Mmmmm good
ORCHARD	Trees, Trees, Trees
PATCHES	Bow Wow

As presidents go, GEORGE Washington lead an interesting life. All of you have heard about the Cherry Tree incident, but have you ever heard of the one about the APPLE TREE?

The story goes like this....

One spring day, GEORGE and his constant companion, his dog PATCHES, were walking around the homeplace, kicking rocks and what-not. It was a lazy afternoon between the morning chores and the evening ones. PATCHES would bring GEORGE a stick to throw, so could return it. Occasionally PATCHES would run up to GEORGE with the stick in his mouth, dance around GEORGE and run away down the road.

Off to the right of the road was an ORCHARD, with various fruit trees such as APPLE TREES, cherry trees, peach trees and pear trees. This ORCHARD was a large one and was close to the house. This being Monday the washing was hung out on the line to dry between the two huge APPLE TREES. The wash -- shirts, linens and such -- was flapping in the breeze. Boys being what they are and dogs being the same, a game of tag developed around the laundry so carefully hung in the sun to dry. First PATCHES ran between Pappa Washington's shirts and Momma Washington's best pillowcases, then around then came GEORGE. Past the long johns, around the sheets, stirring a bit of dust, flapping the wash and popping the clothes line. Around the ORCHARD they raced, behind a cherry tree, under the peach tree and back again. Momma Washington came out of the back door yelling "GEORGE! PATCHES! What do you think you are doing?"

Poor GEORGE. Everything happened at once. He looked toward the door where his mother stood, dept on running...smack into the APPLE TREE! Kaboom! He grabbed the air, but got the clothes line instead. The wash fell, the clothes line came loose ... what a mess for GEORGE! PATCHES didn't help either, because in the excitement PATCHES left paw prints on the shirts, pillowcases, longjohns and such. Well ... mothers being mothers, after GEORGE was examined and found to be okay, with only a nice bump on the head, Momma Washington had GEORGE climb the APPLE TREE and rehung the clothes line. But even worse ... GEORGE got to rewash all of the clothes ... which is probably why nobody ever heard about the day that PATCHES ran through the ORCHARD, and GEORGE climbed the APPLE TREE.