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The Journal of John Woolman

John Woolman · *1774 · Woolman's English (this hosted edition)*

I have often felt a Motion of Love to leave some Hints in Writing of my Experience of the Goodness of God; and now, in the thirty-sixth Year of my Age, I begin this Work. He was born in Northampton, in Burlington County, West-Jersey, in the Year 1720; and before he was seven he began to be acquainted with the Operations of divine Love. Project Gutenberg #37311, 1774. For grades 9–12. Quote Woolman, not only the editor. Later pages on the keeping of slaves need gravity.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read Woolman's Journal as he began it—a motion of love, hints in writing of the goodness of God, started in the thirty-sixth year of his age—and then follow, with gravity, the later testimony about the keeping of slaves?

"I have often felt a Motion of Love to leave some Hints in Writing of my Experience of the Goodness of God; and now, in the thirty-sixth Year"
Opening of the Journal

Woolman does not open with a campaign. He has often felt a motion of love to leave some hints in writing of his experience of the goodness of God; in the thirty-sixth year of his age he begins this work. He was born in Northampton, in Burlington County, West-Jersey, in 1720; before he was seven he began to be acquainted with the operations of divine Love, through the care of his parents. Teach that beginning, in this file's capitals and naming, for grades 9–12. Later, the Journal turns, with gravity, to the keeping of slaves; teach that testimony as his, not as a later slogan only, and do not make a spectacle of anyone's suffering.

KEY CHARACTERS

John Woolman
Who, in the thirty-sixth year of his age, begins to leave hints of the goodness of God

His parents
Through whose care he was taught, and began before he was seven to know the operations of divine Love

The household in West-Jersey
Northampton, in Burlington County, where he was born in 1720

HOW TO BEGIN WOOLMAN'S JOURNAL

> *"I have often felt a Motion of Love to leave some Hints in Writing of my Experience of the Goodness of God; and now, in the thirty-sixth Year"*
> Opening

> *"and before I was seven Years old I began to be acquainted with the Operations of divine Love."*
> Opening

Grades 9–12
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01
A Motion of Love
OPENING OF THE JOURNAL

He has often felt a Motion of Love to leave some Hints in Writing of his Experience of the Goodness of God. The Journal is begun in love, as hints, not as a finished system.

- Keep this file's capitals: Motion of Love, Hints, Goodness of God.
- Quote Woolman, not only the prefatory matter.
- 9–12.
- The later public testimony grows from this.

> *"I have often felt a Motion of Love to leave some Hints in Writing of my Experience of the Goodness of God; and now, in the thirty-sixth Year"*
> Opening of the Journal

02
The Thirty-Sixth Year
OPENING OF THE JOURNAL

And now, in the thirty-sixth Year of his Age, he begins this Work. The book has a dated beginning in a man's mid-life.

- Keep "thirty-sixth Year of my Age."
- This is a beginning, not the whole life already told.
- 9–12.
- 1774 is the year of the published Journal.

> *"and now, in the thirty-sixth Year of my Age, I begin this Work. I was"*
> Opening of the Journal

03
Northampton, West-Jersey, 1720
OPENING OF THE JOURNAL

He was born in Northampton, in Burlington County, West-Jersey, in the Year 1720. The place and the year are exact in this spelling.

- Keep "West-Jersey" and "Northampton" as printed (the file may italicize the place-names).
- Do not modernize the colony's name away.
- 9–12.
- A local life before later journeys.

> *"I was born in _Northampton_, in _Burlington_ County, _West-Jersey_, in the Year 1720; and"*
> Opening of the Journal

04
Before I Was Seven
CHILDHOOD

And before he was seven Years old he began to be acquainted with the Operations of divine Love. Through the care of his parents he was taught. The Journal remembers a child's first acquaintance with love, not only later travels.

- Keep "Operations of divine Love" and the age.
- The parents' care is part of the sentence that follows.
- 9–12.
- Do not skip childhood for later controversy only.

> *"and before I was seven Years old I began to be acquainted with the Operations of divine Love."*
> Opening of the Journal

05
Later: the Keeping of Slaves, with Gravity
THE LATER JOURNAL, AND THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #37311 is Woolman's Journal (1774). Later pages take up the keeping of slaves, in his own costly testimony. Teach that with gravity, as his, not as a later slogan only; do not make a spectacle of anyone's suffering. Quote Woolman, not only an editor. For grades 9–12.

- The opening is about the goodness of God; the later testimony belongs to the same life.
- Gravity; no spectacle.
- Name 1774, and this English.
- One map cannot teach the whole Journal.

> *"I have often felt a Motion of Love to leave some Hints in Writing of my Experience of the Goodness of God; and now, in the thirty-sixth Year"*
> Opening of the Journal

A motion of love | The goodness of God | A child acquainted with Love | Hints left in writing | A later testimony under gravity

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. Keep this file's capitals: a Motion of Love, Hints in Writing, the Goodness of God.
2. He begins in the thirty-sixth year of his age; he was born in West-Jersey in 1720, and knew divine Love before he was seven.
3. Later pages on the keeping of slaves need gravity; do not make a spectacle, and do not replace his testimony with a later slogan only.
4. For grades 9–12. Quote Woolman, not only the editor. Project Gutenberg #37311, 1774.

Quotations are verbatim from the Woolman's English (this hosted edition), Project Gutenberg #37311, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/journal-of-john-woolman/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.