

Bookfolio for **Ben and Me**

Author: [Robert Lawson](#)

Illustrator: Robert Lawson

First Publication Date: 1939

Publisher: Little Brown

ISBN: 0316517321

Recommended for: [Grades 4-6](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Fanciful Biography](#)

Story Summary: In this very fanciful biography, the author creates a highly imaginative treatment of Benjamin Franklin, giving the reader another perspective on biography. A startling manuscript is discovered in which a mouse has "taken pen to paw" to reveal that he, Amos, is largely responsible for Ben Franklin's achievements. In Amos' version of history, he, not Ben, is responsible for most of the inventions, discoveries, and political successes attributed to Ben Franklin. Amos tells "the true stories" of the invention of the Franklin Stove, of Ben's publishing endeavors, of the discovery of electricity, and of Ben's experiences at the French Court. According to Amos, even the Declaration of Independence was written by a mouse!

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 6, pages 39-48

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:

R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

Ben and Me - Independent Activities	Skills
1. A Fanciful Biography (Focusing on author's use of humor)	R , S
2. The Memoirs Were Written By... (Creating the elements for a fanciful biography)	D , S , W
3. Amos and Me (Writing a speech)	S , W
4. Why John Paul Jones? (Researching a topic)	R , S , W
5. Thomas Jefferson (Writing a report)	R , W
6. Declaring Independence (Reading a document)	R , S
Ben and Me - Group Activities	Skills
1. The Humor in the Illustrations (Discussing the illustrators)	S
2. Take Amos out of Retirement (Writing a new chapter)	D , R , S , W
3. From a Rat's Nest (Writing a story)	S , W
4. Amos Tells All (Researching a topic)	R , S , W
5. Healthy, Wealthy and Wise (Discussing maxims)	D , R , S , W
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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