***Henry Hikes to Fitchburg*** by D.B. Johnson

Discussion Questions:

1. Henry and his friend both decide to go to Fitchburg, but they choose to travel differently. What choice does Henry make about his travel? *(He will walk.)* What choice does his friend make? *(He will take the train.)*
2. Every choice involves an opportunity cost—the thing we give up to get the thing we want. When Henry chooses to walk, what is his opportunity cost? *(His opportunity cost is taking the train.)*
3. What is his friend’s opportunity cost when his choice is to take the train? *(His friend’s opportunity cost is walking.)*
4. All choices have costs (negatives) and benefits (positives). What are some of Henry’s costs? *(His costs include the time and effort it takes to walk****~~:~~*** *sore feet, crossing rivers and swamps, building a raft, climbing a tree. For some, the opportunity to build a raft or climb a tree would be a benefit. Sometimes the listing of costs and benefits depends on the view of the individual responding.)*
5. What are some of the benefits to Henry of walking to Fitchburg? *(Henry’s walk includes noticing nature, picking and eating blackberries, finding leaves and flowers to press in his book, finding and eating honey.)*
6. While Henry is slowly making his way to Fitchburg by foot and raft, what is his friend doing most of the day? *(His friend is working to earn the money he needs in order to take the train.)*
7. Henry’s friend is a human resource with many skills and abilities. All workers are human resources. What jobs is Henry’s friend able to do*? (Henry’s friend fills a wood box, sweeps, pulls weeds, paints a fence, moves bookcases, waters cows, cleans a chicken house, and carries flour.)*
8. Why is Henry’s friend willing to do all of this hard work? What is the incentivefor him to work hard all day? *(He wants to earn money for his train ticket so he can get to Fitchburg in a quick manner.)*
9. Why do the people pay Henry’s friend to work? *(Henry’s friend is providing each of these people with a service that they value.)*
10. So, Henry’s friend benefits by earning income, but what are his costs? *(Henry’s friend has to work all day at tiring and difficult chores. He gets dirty from sweeping and cleaning the chicken house. He gets sweaty and tired from moving the wood, the flour, the book cases, and the water.)*
11. Do you think the relaxing ride on the train to Fitchburg was worth all the work that Henry’s friend had to do to earn the money for his ticket? (answers/opinions will vary)
12. Henry’s friend participates in the economy of his town as both a producer of services and a consumer of services. What service did Henry’s friend consume? *(His ride on the train is a service he consumed.)*
13. On this day, does Henry participate in the economy of his town? *(No, he doesn’t produce any goods or services nor does he consume any goods or services. Henry is self-reliant.)*
14. Henry and his friend both made a lot of effort to get to Fitchburg; Henry walked, forded streams, and jumped ponds. Henry’s friend worked as a human resource in his community. Who do you think made the better choice and why? *(Henry’s choice was a good one for him because he really enjoyed his walk despite the effort it took. Henry’s friend made a good choice also because he benefitted his neighbors by the work that he did and the money that he spent. He also travelled to Fitchburg quickly.)*