The Two Hammers

A Riptoes Learning Experience

The story comes to life. The adventure begins with you.

The Two Hammers is a learning experience designed to introduce students to the story of Riptoes and bring its characters, history, and imagination to life. Through a short, two-minute animated Riplet and guided written activities, students explore the journey of Elijah and Tommy, two extraordinary cobblers whose story reminds us that we all have the power to mend, create, and make the world around us better.

TIME	GRADES	YOU NEED	CONNECTS TO
30 to 40 minutes	Lower elementary (2 to 3)	Both activity pages per explorer, pencils and crayons, the Riplet and Note 1 (page 3)	Reading for key details and opinion writing; CCSS RL.2.1 and W.2.1

What students will do

1 PART 1
Discover the Story

Students watch the Riptoes story video, read a short summary, and respond to questions about Elijah and Tommy. They'll demonstrate their understanding through a drawing inspired by what they've learned.

2 PART 2
Imagine the Adventure

Students become storytellers themselves! They'll imagine where their Riptoes should travel, who they should meet, and what they should learn. Through writing and drawing, students create their own ideas for the Riptoes journey.

The learning value

The Two Hammers builds essential skills through an engaging, creative learning experience:

- ✓ Reading comprehension and retention
- ✓ Listening and visual literacy
- ✓ Written expression and communication
- ✓ Critical thinking and answering questions
- ✓ Creativity, imagination, and storytelling

The lesson, step by step

1. **Preview the Riplet** Before the lesson

   Go to riptoes.com/1917 and watch *The Cobblers of Thunder Bay*, the two-minute animated Riplet featured on the page. It tells the story of Elijah and Tommy.

2. **Open with the note** 3 min

   Read Note 1 from Elijah & Tommy aloud (page 3). Ask: Who do you think Elijah and Tommy are? What could magic hammers do?

3. **Watch and read** 7 min

   Play the Riplet for your class. Teach one new word: a *cobbler* is someone who fixes shoes. Then read "The Two Hammers" aloud while explorers follow along, and read it again together.

4. **Part 1: Discover the Story** 10 min

   Ask: Where were Elijah and Tommy? What happened in the storm? What promise did they make? Each explorer draws one thing they learned in the Part 1 box.

5. **Part 2: Imagine the Adventure** 12 min

   Read the three questions aloud. Explorers check one, turn and talk, then draw their answer in the frame and write 1 to 2 sentences about why.

6. **Share the frames** 3 min

   Pair share or a quick gallery walk. Ask: Who picked the same question? What would Elijah and Tommy think of your idea?

7. **Hand out the shoes** To close

   Give each explorer their own pair of Riptoes. Then let them explore more Riplets on their own, or watch together as a class using Class Watch Mode.

Make it fit your room

MORE SUPPORT

- Read the story twice. Act out the CRACK! and the tap, tap.
- Build a word bank together first: cobbler, storm, magic, promise, the park, the library, grandma.
- Draw first, then use the starter: *My Riptoes should ___ because ___.*

MORE STRETCH

- Answer two of the questions, or all three.
- Add a detail from the story to the frame: the ship, the storm or the two hammers.
- Write a note back to Elijah & Tommy about your Riptoes plan.

Read aloud: Note 1

Well, look at that. You found us.

Back in 1917, a bolt of lightning put a little magic in our hammers. We've been tapping ever since.

We left 1,917 pairs of Riptoes, each one meant for the right kid. Some have already found their way home. The rest are still out there, waiting.

Slip them on. See where they take you.

Elijah & Tommy, The Riptoes Cobblers

Found with the first pairs on Nov 11. The note is also on riptoes.com/1917.

A STORY WORTH SHARING

At the heart of Riptoes is a simple idea: **We are all cobblers.**

Just as Elijah and Tommy used their hammers to mend and improve the world around them, students have the power to make a difference through their own stories, actions, and ideas.

Take it home

Send the pages home after you snap your photos. A prompt for families: *Ask your explorer where their Riptoes will take them, and why.*

Snap it, send it, see it shared

1. **Snap photos during the lesson and right after.** Capture explorers at work, then each finished page. Phone photos are perfect; lay pages flat in good light.
2. **Email the photos to schools@riptoes.com.** Include your school name and grade, and we'll take it from there.

- [ ] First names only
- [ ] No school address or room number
- [ ] Faces only with a signed media release
- [ ] Your school's media consent checked

1 Read and draw

Explorer _____

First name only, or just your initials

The Two Hammers

Long ago, in the fall of 1917, a big ship sailed across the sea. Its name was the *Garrison Jack*. Deep below deck, two soldiers worked hard. Elijah was a cobbler from Mississippi. Tommy was a farm boy from Oklahoma. They fixed boots and gear for the army.

One night, a wild storm came. CRACK! Lightning hit the ship! When Elijah and Tommy woke up, something had changed. They had magic!

Elijah could make old, worn things feel new again. Tommy could make plain things strong and shiny. They fixed boots, but they also helped hurt soldiers and sad hearts.

After the war, they made a promise. They would keep the best stories in the world and share them with kids everywhere.

Some say that on stormy nights, you can still hear their hammers. Tap, tap! One is deep. One is bright. That means adventure is near!

☆ **What did you learn about Elijah and Tommy?** Draw a picture of it.

2 Dream and write

Explorer _____

First name only, or just your initials

☆ **Answer one of the following questions.** Check the one you pick. Then draw a picture **AND** write 1–2 sentences about why.

- ☐ Where in your community should your Riptoes go?
- ☐ Who should your Riptoes meet?
- ☐ What should your Riptoes learn?

