

# How Benjamin Came to Be An All A's Student

By Cheyenne Simms

Based On Story By Carol Moore, Who Did Patrick's Homework

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**Objective:** To get students to think about what it takes to become a successful student.

**Grade Level:** Third Grade Reading Level

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**Cast:**

Narrator Good, strong reader; male or female.

Benjamin Male reader

Teacher Male or female reader

Elf Reads with a lot of expression; male or female

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Narrator: Benjamin never did his homework!

Benjamin: Homework is too boring. I know things to do that are a lot more fun.

Narrator: Benjamin liked to play baseball and basketball and Nintendo instead. It was easy for the teacher to tell that Benjamin didn't take doing homework seriously. Many, many times the class heard the teacher say...(wait for the teacher to talk).

Teacher: Class if you don't do your homework you won't learn a thing. When I call on you in class all you'll be able to say it...duh, I don't know.

Narrator: And that was true. Benjamin never seemed to know the right answer to anything. He didn't seem to mind that he didn't know. He just shrugged his shoulders and said...(wait for Patrick to talk).

Benjamin: Sometimes I feel like I'm lost and all alone!

Teacher: Asking questions in class is never meant to make a student feel bad. It's a way of checking to see if the students have been studying and doing their homework. Even if you only do a little bit of studying you will remember something!

Narrator: Then on St. Patrick's Day, Benjamin's cat was playing with a little doll and he grabbed it away from the cat. To his surprise it wasn't a doll at all, but a tiny little man. The little man was wearing a tiny little shirt and old-fashioned pants called "britches", and he was wearing a tall pointed hat, with little pointed-toed shoes. He was yelling loudly...

Elf: Save me! Save me! Don't let that cat swallow me! Save me, young man. I'll grant you a wish, any wish at all. Only save me!

Narrator: Benjamin couldn't believe how lucky he was! Here was the answer to all his problems. He knew exactly who the little man was. He was an elf, and elves were magic creatures.

Benjamin: I'll save you from my cat. I'll keep you safe, too. But, first you have to agree to do all my homework until the end of the semester. That's about 35 more days. You have to do a good job, too. I want to get a few A's.

Elf: Gr-r-r. Oh, trapped I am. What else can I do! Yes, I'll agree to do your homework, you lazy boy.

Narrator: And true to his word, the little elf began to do Benjamin's homework. Except there was one not so little glitch. The elf did not always know what to do and he needed help. The elf was from a time gone by and he didn't know how to do school work like the teacher assigns today. The elf became a bit of a problem. He often interrupted Benjamin while he was playing and asked for help with Benjamin's homework.

Elf: Hey, you lazy boy. Help me! Help me! I don't know this word. What does it mean? Get a dictionary! No. No. Look the word up for me. I can't write and hold the dictionary too.

Benjamin: Okay, okay. Calm down. I just need a few minutes to look up the word. Okay, I found it.

Elf: Now, say the word to me and call out each letter.

Narrator: There were so many words the elf did not know that poor Benjamin found he had to sit down next to the little man and help him with his homework. Things weren't any better when it came to math. Benjamin was always told elves had lots of pots of gold. So he thought the little man would be good at counting and adding things up. But no!

Elf: What are times tables? We elves never need that. And addition and subtraction and division and fractions! What kind of stuff is that? Here, sit down next to me. You simply must guide me through this or I'll never figure it out.

Benjamin: You don't seem to know much about history, either. In fact, I'd say history was a mystery to you. The report you wrote for me is a big mess. Now I'm going to have to go to the library.

Elf: That's the perfect thing to do. Yes, get more books. Books have the answers in them. How did you expect me to know anything about Italy? I'm from Ireland. Yes, we need more books. And, you'll have to help me read them too.

Narrator: Benjamin found that in every way, every day, the little elf was becoming a nag! Benjamin was working harder than ever before on his homework, and it was a drag. He found he had to wait until the weekend to play with his games, and he found himself staying up later at night just to finish the work the elf had begun but did not complete. Benjamin had never felt so weary, and he started going to school with eyes that were puffy and bleary.

Finally the last day of school arrived and the elf was free to go. There was no more homework to be done so he slipped out the back door. At the end of the day, the teacher passed out the final report cards. She handed them out one by one. When she called Benjamin's name she said...(wait for the teacher to speak).

Teacher: Benjamin Smith, here's your report card. You have earned all A's! Congratulations.

Narrator: Benjamin's classmates were amazed. His teachers smiled and were full of praise. And his parents? They wondered what in the world had happened to now the model kid. Cleaned his room, did his chores, was cheerful and never rude. It was like he had developed a whole new attitude.

You see, Benjamin only thought he made tiny little man do all his homework. But, the truth is Benjamin had done it all himself.

THE END