

# **Joshua's Song**

**By: Henry Simon**

The setting of the story was in Boston. I know this because the text says "Tragedy in Boston's North End." The setting is also placed in 1919. I know this because the text says "... his brand new Model T Ford." The final setting is in January. I know this because the text says "Two weeks ago, Christmas had been a disaster."

The setting is important because some of the events wouldn't have happened. I know this because the great molasses flood only happened 1919 and so did the book take place in 1919. Also the Spanish influenza epidemic only happened in 1918 and 1919.

Three things I learned from this time period that there was a molasses flood in Boston, Massachusetts 1919. Also, I learned that there was an influenza epidemic in 1919. Finally I learned that that there used to be places called tenements that were for poor people particularly immigrants.

If this story was set in the present there wouldn't be a molasses flood. There wouldn't be a molasses flood because we have better containment systems today. I know this because the text says "Molasses tank explodes!"

The event is that Joshua had to work as a newspaper boy. The cause is that Josh's family has no money because his dad died. The effect is that Joshua had to go job hunting and found a job as a newsboy.

The main character of this story is Joshua Harper. I know this because the text says "His name, Joshua Harper." Josh is 13 years old. I know this because the text says "... his voice changed." I know when you're 13 your voice changes. Josh works as a newspaper boy. I know this because the text says "I'm going to sell newspapers." He also tries to help his friend's mom during the molasses flood but couldn't save her. I know this because the text says "It's too late." "Joshua sobbed" "She's dead."

One of the historical events changed Joshua by how the influenza epidemic killed his father making Josh have to find a job. I

know this because the text says" ... The day Joshua's father died." Also because the text says" He didn't know the first thing about job hunting." The second historical event changed Joshua's life by how a molasses flood caused his friend's mom's death. I know this because the text says" Where's Angel? I can't tell her that her mama died."

The conflict in this story is that Joshua's dad died from influenza, Josh's family had little money, and Josh needed to get a job. This problem was resolved by how Josh got a job, his mom took in paying boarders, and they were making money out of all of this. I know this because the text says" I don't want them to know we have paying boarders." Also because the text says" I may have a job ... um ... for the newspaper."

I wouldn't like to live in this time period. I wouldn't like to live in this time period because of the influenza epidemic. I know this happened because the text says" Thousands had perished in the influenza outbreak."