

Work or Starve: Captain John Smith and the Jamestown Colony, 1607–1609

Characters

Narrator

George Dutton

Pocahontas

Edward Wingfield

Captain John Smith

William Brownfield

Setting

This reader's theater takes place aboard the ship, *Susan Constant*, and in the Jamestown colony of Virginia. This story is based on actual events.



Act I

Narrator: Two men and a boy stand on the deck of one of three ships that left England on December 20, 1606. The ships are carrying four boys and over one hundred men to the New World.

William: Is there any sign of land?

George: Not so far.

Edward: We had better get there soon. Our water and food supplies are running dangerously low.

George: And we need to find land in time to plant the crops. Six weeks on the sea without wind destroyed our schedule.

William: How is John Smith doing?

Edward: As well as can be expected, considering the brute is in shackles and chains.

George: Captain Newport had to contain him. The talk of mutiny was too dangerous.

William: But nobody knows for sure that he was planning a mutiny.

Edward: Are you questioning the captain's judgment, boy? Must I remind you that the Virginia Company put Captain Newport in charge of this expedition until we reach the New World? You are but a child. Leave these matters to men.