

English  
Speech  
Mr. Kaelin

Valerie Taylor 705  
3/31/09  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> period

Good morrow! I be Audrey Taylor. The name Audrey came from a lass who visited our shop once. My father Thomas, he be the owner of our shop, he liked her name. Taylor comes from our job. Aye, it be what we do. The Swift Needle be our store in town, and all the good gentlemen and ladies be flocking to it. I be apprenticed to my father, an' I be at the age of fifteen. I have no longer than a year left of apprenticeship, then I be free. Until then, I am not to be wed, lest I displease the tailoring guild. My mother, Ellen, she is ne'er to be pleased by this. She wishes me to be married. My brother Eddy, at the mere age o' five, thinks marriage to be disgusting. He be a cute lad, that boy. Alack, I wish I knew what my sister thought about this. See, she passed on soon as she was born a year ago.

All I know 'bout tailoring, I learned from me father. Aye, he be a good teacher. He also be my master, the one I am apprenticed to at our shop. It be the only place for respectable gentles to be gettin' their clothes. Marry, it takes time to finish all the orders we be gettin'. It be much work for us tailors. I be one of the quickest at sewing an' needlework but can be a bit in a rush an' drop things.

Aye, I been apprenticed since the age of nine, an' been workin' without rest since then. There always be work here. The rich hire us, an' there be a fair lot of them. The rest make their own clothes, yea, but they cannot compare to what we do at the Swift Needle. In our shop, I talk a lot to the cutter, who works here and makes all the patterns for us. That be so that we tailors can focus on the sewing. I also see a lot o' the weaver, Isabella. She be the one that makes all the cloth customers bring to us. In any extra time there be, between work an' chores, I be with my two favorite

cousins. Clemence the silversmith and Ruth the milkmaid, they both be fifteen like me.

My best tools be my able hands and the needle an' thread. I can sew with the best of them. I also use scissors, to cut my thread and fix a pattern if the cutter be lackin'. It cost us much to keep our shop goin', yea, as there be many expenses. But by my faith, people sure do like to be showin' off their money with a nice tailored dress, so we get by fine. We have not got a lot of wealth, but we are sure not to be poor. The Taylor family be middle class, aye, a fine place to be.

Today I be wearin' me most favorite clothes. The bodice and skirt both be blue, and I made them both myself. They took a fair while but be much easier than the rich folk's complicated dresses. This hat, here, may not look much, but it means much to me. My dad, he be givin' it to me when I just started workin' at the shop. I also be wearin' this apron from my dad, it be with The Swift Needle stitched on. This pouch here, I bought with what I earned from work an' stitched on a sun. My mom gave me my black shoes. I be growin' out of them now, but they will have to do. My brooch, made from real silver, aye, it be passed down in the family all the way since my great-grandmother.

I be a most important addition to the Swift Needle an' a most excellent tailor. Aye, I once made a dress for the richest lady in town. She be likin' it so, she wore it to a ball. I have six years of experience. If it were not for me, much of the good folks at our faire would not be so finely dressed. I can offer great clothes made to perfection and I am known by the whole town for my skills. So all good gentles, please let Audrey Taylor in to the faire. Thank you much.