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Class Historian

### Eleven Years Before The Mast

In 1936 a group of sixty-four eager and willing little sailors walked up the gang-plank to begin a strange voyage which was to last for eleven years.

During the early years of the voyage, exciting things happened as crew members were busy learning to perform their duties under the firm guidance of Miss Margaret Chambers, Miss Emily Jumper, Miss Cava Stukes, Miss Miriam Stack, Miss Belle Sanders, Miss Anna Gregg and Miss Lucille Marbert. Excitement heightened at some of the crew's entertainments: "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "The Early Bird Catches the Worm," and "Peter Rabbit."

Of course, not all of these sailors could bear their hardships and responsibilities, so a few fell overboard; some were leaving, but others were picked up at different ports and the mightiest sailed on.

At the end of the sixth year, all of the sailors were very happy and proud to receive their well-earned certificates. At this time Johnny Lee was awarded the medal as the leading seaman.

During the following years of this voyage, the sailors realized that they would be the

future leaders. This realization made them struggle harder to perform their duties.

While sailing on their tenth year, the members worked eagerly under the leadership of their loving sponsor, Miss Virginia Herring, to make their reception, "The Mexican Fiesta," a gala social event.

Soon their ship, under the command of Miss Herring, weighed anchor on the last cruise of its journey. On board were a total of ninety-six well-trained sailors, only twelve of whom had started in this group on that September day in '36. This year they were accompanied by some war veterans who had come back to complete their education in order to be better prepared for their future rides on the sea of life. During this year, they produced the "Senior Follies of '47" and as the top performance of the year, they presented *Best Foot Forward*.

While the ship sailed on, each sailor knew that his reward awaited him when anchor was cast at his final port. As the harbor came into sight, each member had a sad feeling for he had learned to love his shipmates. When the ship dropped anchor, the sailors went ashore realizing that each was to take a different sea and knowing that forever he would cherish each memory of the dear days that they had spent together.