

Act 4

- Caroline:** I'm almost finished sewing together all of the pieces for the stars. It has taken me so much longer than I expected.
- Grandmother:** That's because each of the 15 stars must be 2 feet wide.
- Mary:** It would have been easier if I could have used single pieces of fabric.
- Johnny:** Even I know that a long piece of cotton is very expensive.
- Grandmother:** It would have been easier to do each stripe in one piece, too. But the stripes are so large. It would have been impossible.

- Johnny:** Look at me! I am as tall as two stripes put together!
- Caroline:** And there are 15 stripes!
- Grandmother:** There must be thousands of stitches here.
- Narrator 1:** Experts estimate that there are 350,000 hand-sewn stitches in the flag that Mary made for Fort McHenry.
- Grandmother:** And see how the same stars are seen from both sides? You saved fabric and made the flag lighter!
- Mary:** I just measured the flag. It's 1,260 square feet!



Caroline: Isn't this going to be too heavy to fly?

Grandmother: Wool is a light fabric. That will help make the flag light enough to fly in the wind.

Mary: Johnny, will you help me weigh it? Then I'll send it to the fort.

Johnny: Are you going to get paid a lot of money for this flag?

Mary: I'm really lucky, Johnny. My mother taught me an important trade that has allowed me to support my family.

Caroline: And the storm flag is separate. We'll get paid for that, too.

Johnny: I've been meaning to ask. Why is the American flag red, white, and blue?

Grandmother: No one knows for sure. Maybe the red is for bravery.

Caroline: The white might be for innocence.

Mary: And blue could stand for justice.

Act 5

Narrator 1: In 1812, Francis Scott Key was working as a lawyer. But he wanted to join the fight for freedom.

Narrator 2: Key stopped being a lawyer and joined the war. He helped with cannons and gathered supplies.

Narrator 1: In September of 1814, British soldiers took an American doctor prisoner. Francis Scott Key took a small boat to meet the British. He pleaded for them to release the doctor.

Narrator 2: Luckily, the British soldiers set the doctor free. But they made the men stay on their ship overnight. The attack on Fort McHenry was about to begin.

