

Pick five students to perform aloud pages 6–9 from the book. Prior to a public performance, have students look through the pages and identify their character. Students can then use the scripts provided on this CD-ROM to practice their part. Suggested props: an umbrella for Catherine Greene, tools for Eli Whitney.

## Main Script

*Scene One: Eli Whitney, Phineas Miller, and Catherine Greene are outside . . .*

Narrator: In 1792, young inventor Eli Whitney went to the South to work as a tutor. But the job didn't work out. His friends Catherine Greene and Phineas Miller invited him to stay at Mulberry Grove in Georgia.

Phineas: Welcome to Mulberry Grove, Eli. I understand that you studied law in college. Do you plan to become a lawyer?

Eli: I don't know. I really love working with my hands. I once built a machine that made nails. Maybe I could do something like that.

Catherine: I'm sure you can, Eli. A mind like yours will be useful here in the South.

*Scene Two: Phineas is showing Eli the plantation fields . . .*

Narrator: The next day, Phineas, who managed the plantation, showed Eli the fields around Mulberry Grove.

Phineas: We've been trying to find a way to make money from cotton, Eli. But it's difficult to clean. Our slaves have to pull out the seeds one at a time.

Eli (*thinking to himself*): There must be an easier way to clean the cotton.

Narrator: Eli spent the next few weeks at Mulberry Grove helping Phineas with his duties. He spent his evenings keeping Catherine and her children company.

*Scene Three: Eli and Catherine are in the house. Catherine is doing some needlework . . .*

Catherine: This needlework frame keeps cutting into the work I've already done.

Eli: May I see? I think I could make a better frame for you.

*(Eli goes to work on the frame. Some time later . . .)*

Catherine: Eli, this new frame is splendid! It holds the fabric snugly and doesn't cut the threads. You're very talented.

Eli: Thank you. It took a few tries, but I'm glad you like it.

*Scene Four: Later, at a dinner party at Mulberry Grove. . .*

Narrator: Catherine often invited neighboring farmers to dinner at Mulberry Grove. Eli liked to talk with them and learn about their cotton crops.

Farmer: Cotton is very popular. We could make a lot of money from it. But green-seed cotton is so hard to clean.

Eli: Why does it take so long to separate the seeds from the cotton?

Phineas: The seeds are very small and sticky. The workers have to pull them from the cotton boll one at a time.

Eli: I've heard about a machine that can separate the seeds. Why don't you use it?

Phineas: The roller gin? It's used for black-seed cotton. Black seeds are smooth. They roll right out of the cotton. But the roller gin's rollers break the green seeds in our cotton. Nobody wants cotton with seeds mixed in.

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**Main Script**

Eli: Why don't you just grow black-seed cotton?

Phineas: Only green-seed cotton grows well here.  
Black-seed cotton grows well only near the ocean.

Farmer: It costs too much to buy and keep enough  
slaves to do the work. I just can't make any money  
from cotton.

Catherine: Gentlemen, apply to my young friend,  
Mr. Whitney. He can make anything! He made this  
needlework frame for me.

Phineas: What fine work! What are your future plans,  
Eli?

Eli: I thought I'd return north to find work.

Catherine: Nonsense! You're going to stay right here  
and help with our cotton problem. I'm sure you can  
think of something.

Eli: I must admit, my mind is already churning with  
ideas.

**Catherine Greene**

*Scene One: Eli Whitney, Phineas Miller, and Catherine Greene are outside . . .*

Narrator: In 1792, young inventor Eli Whitney went to the South to work as a tutor. But the job didn't work out. His friends Catherine Greene and Phineas Miller invited him to stay at Mulberry Grove in Georgia.

Phineas: Welcome to Mulberry Grove, Eli. I understand that you studied law in college. Do you plan to become a lawyer?

Eli: I don't know. I really love working with my hands. I once built a machine that made nails. Maybe I could do something like that.

**Catherine: I'm sure you can, Eli. A mind like yours will be useful here in the South.**

*Scene Two: Phineas is showing Eli the plantation fields . . .*

Narrator: The next day, Phineas, who managed the plantation, showed Eli the fields around Mulberry Grove.

Phineas: We've been trying to find a way to make money from cotton, Eli. But it's difficult to clean. Our slaves have to pull out the seeds one at a time.

Eli (*thinking to himself*): There must be an easier way to clean the cotton.

Narrator: Eli spent the next few weeks at Mulberry Grove helping Phineas with his duties. He spent his evenings keeping Catherine and her children company.

*Scene Three: Eli and Catherine are in the house. Catherine is doing some needlework . . .*

**Catherine: This needlework frame keeps cutting into the work I've already done.**

Eli: May I see? I think I could make a better frame for you.

*(Eli goes to work on the frame. Some time later . . .)*

**Catherine: Eli, this new frame is splendid! It holds the fabric snugly and doesn't cut the threads. You're very talented.**

Eli: Thank you. It took a few tries, but I'm glad you like it.

*Scene Four: Later, at a dinner party at Mulberry Grove. . .*

Narrator: Catherine often invited neighboring farmers to dinner at Mulberry Grove. Eli liked to talk with them and learn about their cotton crops.

Farmer: Cotton is very popular. We could make a lot of money from it. But green-seed cotton is so hard to clean.

Eli: Why does it take so long to separate the seeds from the cotton?

Phineas: The seeds are very small and sticky. The workers have to pull them from the cotton boll one at a time.

Eli: I've heard about a machine that can separate the seeds. Why don't you use it?

Phineas: The roller gin? It's used for black-seed cotton. Black seeds are smooth. They roll right out of the cotton. But the roller gin's rollers break the green seeds in our cotton. Nobody wants cotton with seeds mixed in.

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**Catherine Greene**

Eli: Why don't you just grow black-seed cotton?

Phineas: Only green-seed cotton grows well here.  
Black-seed cotton grows well only near the ocean.

Farmer: It costs too much to buy and keep enough  
slaves to do the work. I just can't make any money  
from cotton.

**Catherine: Gentlemen, apply to my young friend,  
Mr. Whitney. He can make anything! He made this  
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Phineas: What fine work! What are your future plans,  
Eli?

Eli: I thought I'd return north to find work.

**Catherine: Nonsense! You're going to stay right here  
and help with our cotton problem. I'm sure you can  
think of something.**

Eli: I must admit, my mind is already churning with  
ideas.

### Eli Whitney

*Scene One: Eli Whitney, Phineas Miller, and Catherine Greene are outside . . .*

Narrator: In 1792, young inventor Eli Whitney went to the South to work as a tutor. But the job didn't work out. His friends Catherine Greene and Phineas Miller invited him to stay at Mulberry Grove in Georgia.

Phineas: Welcome to Mulberry Grove, Eli. I understand that you studied law in college. Do you plan to become a lawyer?

**Eli: I don't know. I really love working with my hands. I once built a machine that made nails. Maybe I could do something like that.**

Catherine: I'm sure you can, Eli. A mind like yours will be useful here in the South.

*Scene Two: Phineas is showing Eli the plantation fields . . .*

Narrator: The next day, Phineas, who managed the plantation, showed Eli the fields around Mulberry Grove.

Phineas: We've been trying to find a way to make money from cotton, Eli. But it's difficult to clean. Our slaves have to pull out the seeds one at a time.

**Eli (thinking to himself): There must be an easier way to clean the cotton.**

Narrator: Eli spent the next few weeks at Mulberry Grove helping Phineas with his duties. He spent his evenings keeping Catherine and her children company.

*Scene Three: Eli and Catherine are in the house. Catherine is doing some needlework . . .*

Catherine: This needlework frame keeps cutting into the work I've already done.

**Eli: May I see? I think I could make a better frame for you.**

*(Eli goes to work on the frame. Some time later . . .)*

Catherine: Eli, this new frame is splendid! It holds the fabric snugly and doesn't cut the threads. You're very talented.

**Eli: Thank you. It took a few tries, but I'm glad you like it.**

*Scene Four: Later, at a dinner party at Mulberry Grove. . .*

Narrator: Catherine often invited neighboring farmers to dinner at Mulberry Grove. Eli liked to talk with them and learn about their cotton crops.

Farmer: Cotton is very popular. We could make a lot of money from it. But green-seed cotton is so hard to clean.

**Eli: Why does it take so long to separate the seeds from the cotton?**

Phineas: The seeds are very small and sticky. The workers have to pull them from the cotton boll one at a time.

**Eli: I've heard about a machine that can separate the seeds. Why don't you use it?**

Phineas: The roller gin? It's used for black-seed cotton. Black seeds are smooth. They roll right out of the cotton. But the roller gin's rollers break the green seeds in our cotton. Nobody wants cotton with seeds mixed in.

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**Eli Whitney**

**Eli: Why don't you just grow black-seed cotton?**

Phineas: Only green-seed cotton grows well here.  
Black-seed cotton grows well only near the ocean.

Farmer: It costs too much to buy and keep enough  
slaves to do the work. I just can't make any money  
from cotton.

Catherine: Gentlemen, apply to my young friend,  
Mr. Whitney. He can make anything! He made this  
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Phineas: What fine work! What are your future plans,  
Eli?

**Eli: I thought I'd return north to find work.**

Catherine: Nonsense! You're going to stay right here  
and help with our cotton problem. I'm sure you can  
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**Eli: I must admit, my mind is already churning with  
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**Farmer**

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Eli: I don't know. I really love working with my hands. I once built a machine that made nails. Maybe I could do something like that.

Catherine: I'm sure you can, Eli. A mind like yours will be useful here in the South.

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Narrator: The next day, Phineas, who managed the plantation, showed Eli the fields around Mulberry Grove.

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Catherine: Eli, this new frame is splendid! It holds the fabric snugly and doesn't cut the threads. You're very talented.

Eli: Thank you. It took a few tries, but I'm glad you like it.

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Narrator: Catherine often invited neighboring farmers to dinner at Mulberry Grove. Eli liked to talk with them and learn about their cotton crops.

**Farmer: Cotton is very popular. We could make a lot of money from it. But green-seed cotton is so hard to clean.**

Eli: Why does it take so long to separate the seeds from the cotton?

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**Farmer**

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**Narrator**

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**Phineas Miller**

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**Phineas: The roller gin? It's used for black-seed cotton. Black seeds are smooth. They roll right out of the cotton. But the roller gin's rollers break the green seeds in our cotton. Nobody wants cotton with seeds mixed in.**

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**Phineas Miller**

Eli: Why don't you just grow black-seed cotton?

**Phineas: Only green-seed cotton grows well here.  
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**Phineas: What fine work! What are your future plans, Eli?**

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