

Middle-of-Year Fluency Assessment Recording Copy**Scout's Honor***Avi*

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- 1 Back in 1946, when I was nine, I worried that I wasn't tough enough. 14
That's why I became a Boy Scout. Scouting, I thought, would make a 27
man of me. It didn't take long to reach Tenderfoot rank. You got that for 42
joining. To move up to Second Class, however, you had to meet three 55
requirements. Scout Spirit and Scout Participation had been cinchy. The 65
third requirement, Scout Craft, meant I had to go on an overnight hike in 79
the country. In other words, I had to leave Brooklyn, on my own, for the 94
first time in my life. 99
- 2 Since I grew up in Brooklyn in the 1940s, the only grass I knew was in 115
Ebbets Field where the Dodgers played. Otherwise, my world was made 126
of slate pavements, streets of asphalt (or cobblestone), and skies full of tall 139
buildings. The only thing "country" was a puny pin oak tree at our curb, 153
which was noticed, mostly, by dogs. 159
- 3 I asked Scoutmaster Brenkman where I could find some country. Now, 170
whenever I saw Mr. Brenkman, who was a church pastor, he was dressed 183
either in church black or Scout khaki. When he wore black, he'd warn us 197
against hellfire. When he wore khaki, he'd teach us how to build fires. 210

4	“Country,” Scoutmaster Brenkman said in answer to my question, “is anywhere that has lots of trees and is not in the city. Many boys camp in the Palisades.”	220 236 238
5	“Where’s that?”	240
6	“Just north of the city. It’s a park in Jersey.”	250
7	“Isn’t that a zillion miles from here?”	257
8	“Take the subway to the George Washington Bridge, then hike across.”	268
9	I thought for a moment, then asked, “How do I prove I went?”	281
10	Mr. Brenkman looked deeply shocked. “You wouldn’t <i>lie</i> , would you? What about Scout’s honor?”	292 295
11	“Yes, sir,” I replied meekly.	300

Word Count: 300