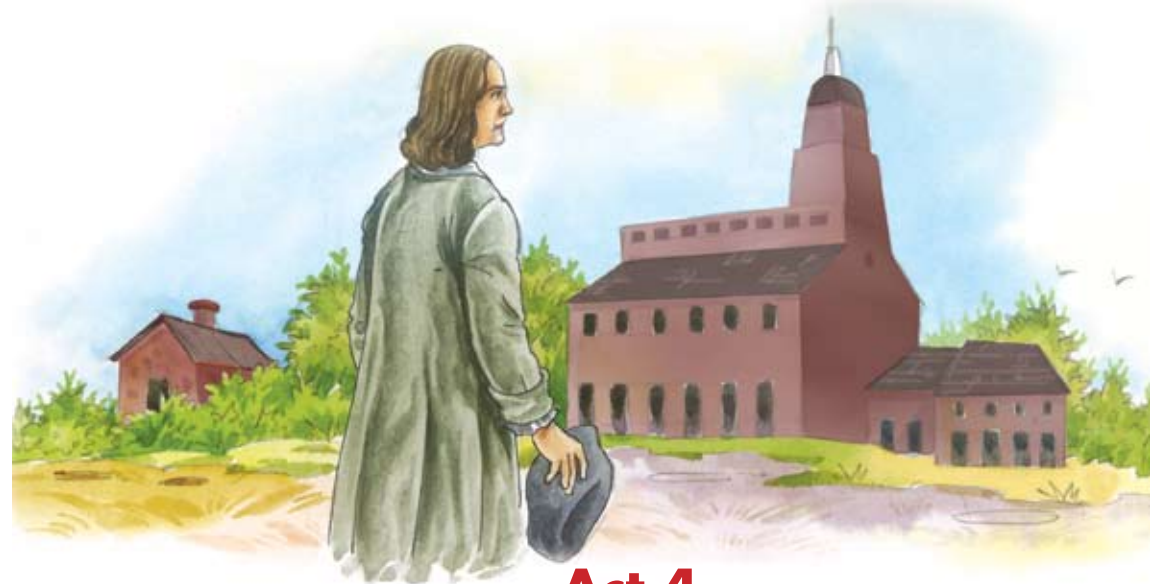


## Act 3

- Narrator 1:** When Benjamin was 17, he decided that he didn't want to be an apprentice any more.
- Narrator 2:** Benjamin decided to run away from his brother's printing shop. In fact, he ran all the way to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Benjamin:** It took me a few years, but by 1728, I owned my very own print shop.
- Mr. Franklin:** Ben was so excited to be making money! He bought new clothes, new shoes, and a fancy watch.
- Benjamin:** I couldn't wait to show everyone back home how well I was doing.
- Townsperson:** When Ben had saved some money, he went back to visit his family. James wasn't very happy to see his youngest brother.
- Mr. Franklin:** James was mad that Ben came back to show off in front of everyone. James and Benjamin didn't talk for two whole years after that!



## Act 4

- Narrator 2:** Back in Philadelphia, Benjamin was very happy. He had lots of friends that were just like him.
- Mr. Franklin:** In 1723, Ben met a young woman named Deborah Read. They decided to get married in 1730.
- Benjamin:** I was 24 years old and I loved being married. Deborah and I worked very well together. We owned a print shop, a bookstore, and a general store.
- Townsperson:** In their general store, they sold many useful items, including Mr. Franklin's candles and soaps.
- Deborah:** Ben was always studying strange and interesting things. He even studied how little black ants communicated with one another.

**Mr. Franklin:** Ben started inventing things to make life easier for people.

**Narrator 2:** He invented new ways to light city streets at night.

**Narrator 1:** He also invented bifocals, which are special eyeglasses.

**Deborah:** Ben invented a wood-burning stove to help heat our house.

**Townsperson:** He was always creating and inventing new ways to improve people's lives.

**Mr. Franklin:** He helped form the first fire department and public library in Philadelphia. He even created an insurance company to help people who lost their property in fires.



**Narrator 1:** During the early years of his marriage, Benjamin started publishing an almanac. An almanac is a book that is full of odd and interesting facts.

**Benjamin:** My almanac, *Poor Richard's Almanack*, was published once a year.

**Deborah:** Ben's almanac was special because he wrote such clever jokes and advice. The almanac also included weather information, dates of holidays, and even when the moon would be full.

**Townsperson:** People loved his almanac. He wrote one every year for 20 years.

**Narrator 2:** One of Benjamin's most famous lines from his almanac is, "A penny saved is a penny earned." People still repeat that line today!

**Townsperson:** You might think that "Ben the Inventor" settled down as he got older.

**Narrator 1:** You'd be wrong. Benjamin still had some of his best ideas to come.

**Townsperson:** Ben wanted to keep learning new things. He even changed the way mail was sent.

**Mr. Franklin:** It seemed like Ben could do anything he wanted to do.