

Bliss' Day at the Fais Do Do

Written & Illustrated  
by

Bailey Ambrose

## Author's Purpose

This story is appropriate for all teachers to share orally with their classes around Louisiana festival time. As a teacher, I would read this story to my class for the students to gain knowledge about community events. There are few stories about Louisiana festivals to teach children cultural traditions and means of celebration. There are limited resources for teachers to use that connect students to Louisiana Folklife. Students in Louisiana are diversely different than children from other states, my goal is to provide this story as a model to be part of the change to do better for the children of Louisiana.

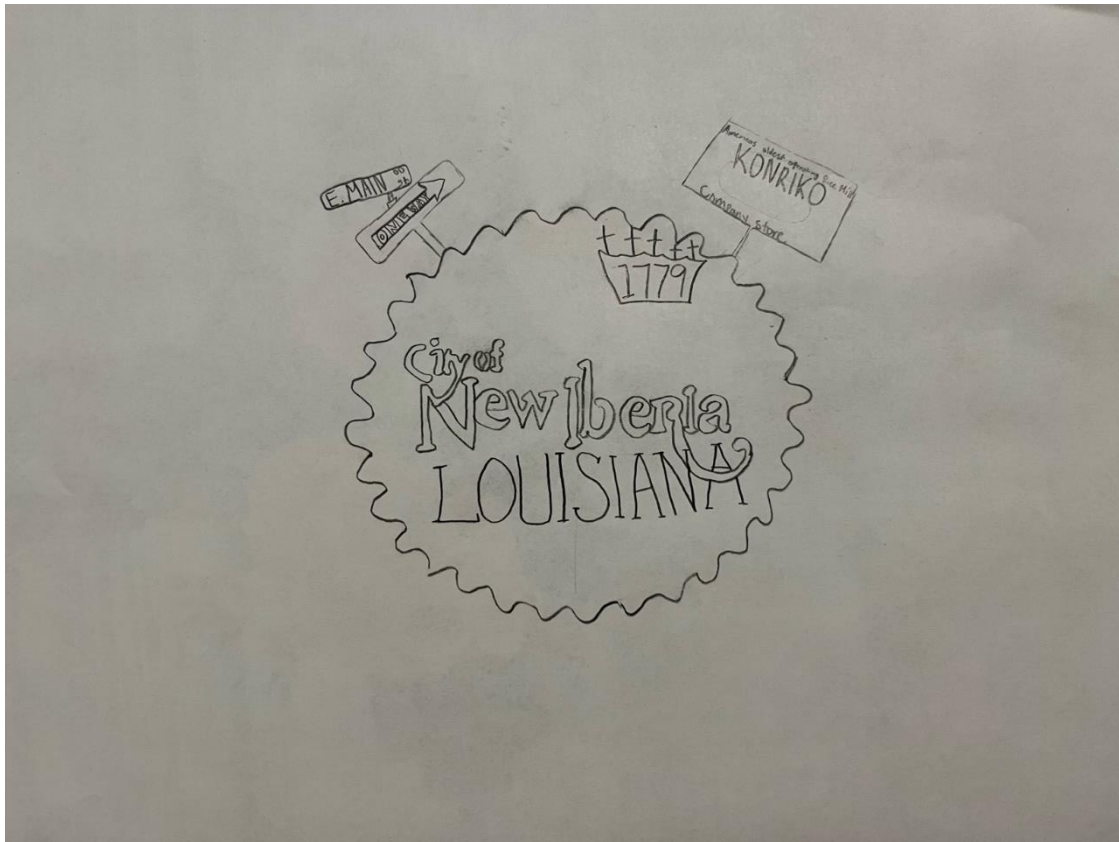
## Dedication

I would like to dedicate this story to my little sister, Bliss.

She is the brightest kid and seeing her smile means everything to me.

We've grown up together side by side, every day since she's been born, and

I couldn't be more thankful to have her as a sister.



### Bliss' Day at the Fais Do Do

It is the end of September and Bliss knows that the Sugarcane Festival will be approaching soon. While at school, her teacher, Mrs. Hulin announces that there will be a big festival called the Fais Do-Do that will have food, drinks, music, and fair rides.

Bliss' face lights up and she is ecstatic to go home and tell her mom all about the festival because she wants to go. When Bliss arrives home from school, she cannot wait to let her mom know about her plans for next weekend.

“Mom, Mom, can we please go to the Do-Do next weekend mom? Please? It is going to be so much fun, and I really want to go!”

Her mom Tessa, replies with, “Bliss you have not been behaving these past couple of days. I need to see a change in your conduct and then I will think about bringing you.”

Bliss' big sister Bailey overhears the conversation and butts in, “Bliss it is not the Do-Do, it is the Fais Do-Do.”

Being upset, Bliss storms off to her room with the disappointed answer she got from her mom.

The next morning Bliss wakes up and knows that she must be on her best behavior at school, or she will not be allowed to go to the festival.

“Good morning, Mom, I am ready to have a good day at school today,” she says.

Everyone is in the kitchen eating breakfast and her brother Blake says, “Hey mom, I will bet you twenty dollars that Bliss will get a conduct mark today.”

“Blake, get to school and stop picking at your little sister,” Mrs. Tessa snaps back quickly. Everyone leaves for the day and Bliss is still in a good mood to have the best day she has had yet.

At school, Bliss is doing her best not to talk in class and to pay attention to her teacher. It is now time for lunch and recess. Bliss is playing with her friends on the playground when the meanest kid in her class trips her on purpose.

“I am going to punch you, Tatum!” Bliss says out of anger. Tatum runs to the teacher and tells her, “Bliss said she is going to punch me Mrs. Hulin!”

Mrs. Hulin goes up to Bliss and pulls her from the playground.

“Bliss, you know this will result in a conduct mark and I will be contacting your mom to let her know what just happened at recess.”

Bliss is upset and even starts to cry because she knows that she will not be allowed to attend the Sugarcane festival and Fais Do-Do with her mom. A Fais Do-Do is a Cajun dance party, a street dance where everyone dances until dark.

School ends and her mom is waiting for Bliss when she gets home to chew her out about her actions at school.

“So, is there anything you want to tell me about that happened at school today?” her mom asks as soon as she puts her backpack down.

“Mom, he tripped me on the playground on purpose. I know he did it on purpose,” she replies with sadness on her face.

“Bliss, that does not give you the right to threaten someone. Your request to go to the festival is on hold, you will not be going,” her mom says.

Bliss bursts into tears and walks away.

“Mom, you owe Blake twenty dollars,” Bryson replies, who is Bliss’ oldest brother.

“Yeah mom, let me get those dollars from you pleaseeeee!” Blake says laughing hysterically.

“Bryson and Blake, out! Now!” Their mom says.

Bailey rushes to comfort her little sister and says, “Bliss, listen I know you are upset but it is going to be okay.”

“No, it is not Bailey, I am not going to be able to go have fun, mom is so mad at me.”

“You have to show her that you are a big girl, and you can be good at school. You must stop getting conduct marks and doing bad things.” Her sister tells her.

“Okay, I am going to try even harder to show Mommy that I can be good and that I deserve to go to the festival.”

The two girls go to their room and get ready for school for tomorrow.

The next morning Bliss is determined to do better than she did yesterday, and everyone is downstairs for breakfast.

“Good morning to my sister that was promoted to being a boxer,” Blake says to mess with Bliss.

“Mom, please tell Blake to leave me alone.” Bliss says being very annoyed by her brother.

“Blake I am taking away your video game for the day; you cannot keep being mean to your sister,” Their mom says.

“Sorry mom.” Blake says.

“Bye guys, I am off to have a good day at school today!” Bliss says very excitedly.

As the day goes on, Bliss is doing her very best to stay on her best behavior. While taking her sister’s advice, Bliss is determined to show her Mom that she can be good at school. The day comes to an end and Mrs. Hulin says to her,

“Bliss, I am proud of how good you were today, keep it up and I will call mom to let her know you have no conduct marks.”

“Thank you, Mrs. Hulin,” and she goes home with a big smile on her face.

Bliss’ school bus rolls down Main Street in New Iberia and she sees the town being set up for the Sugarcane festival. She could not be more excited. Bliss arrives home and says, “Guys! I saw the Do-Do being on Main Street!”

“Bliss, I told you it’s the Fais Do-Do,” her sister says trying to correct her.

“Bailey, stop being a smarty pants all the time,” Bryson says back to Bailey.

“You are not going to that festival if you cannot get your act together cher’,” her mom corrects her.

“Mom, I got this. I am being on my best behavior, I promise.” Bliss says with confidence.



The week ends and Bliss has been on her best behavior to show her mom that she deserves to be at the Sugarcane festival.

On Friday, Mrs. Hulin tells Bliss, “I am so very proud of you, you haven’t had any conduct marks this week. Mom will get a call today.”

“Thank you, thank you, thank you, Mrs. Hulin, my mom is going to be so happy for me.” Bliss can’t wait to get home and brag to her family about her good behavior.

“Guys! Guess what? I got no conduct marks this week. I am going to the Do-Do.” Bliss tells her family when she arrives home from school.

“Oh lord, its gone snow outside,” Bryson says.

“Good job Bliss, I told you that you could behave if you tried,” Bailey tells her.

“So glad you retired from boxing,” Blake says with a smirk.

“Good job girlfriend, your teacher called me and said you were on your best behavior this week. We can go to the Sugarcane festival this weekend, you earned it,” Her mom congratulates her.

“See, guys I know how to be good and now I get to go eat crawfish and have candy apples at the Sugarcane festival and dance to Cupid Shuffle,” Bliss says happily.

The weekend comes and Bliss and her family head down to Main Street to attend the Fais Do-Do where she got to eat her crawfish, candy apples, and dance to Cupid Shuffle. Bliss struggled with her behavior in the beginning, but she was

able to overcome her obstacles and keep her conduct at an A and be rewarded with something that she really wanted. Bliss had a successful day at the Fais Do-Do.

## References

- Verret, V. (2022). *Mrs. V's Neighborhood Breakfast*. Institutional Repository, Special Collections. University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
- Fontenot, M. (1961). *Clovis Crawfish*. Pelican Publications. Eunice, Louisiana.

## Vocabulary


1. **Candy Apple:** An apple coated with a thin layer of cooked sugar or caramel and fixed on a stick.
2. **Conduct Mark:** Conduct marks are earned by students when they do not follow the class rules.
3. **Crawfish:** A freshwater crayfish.
4. **Cupid Shuffle:** A dance craze that was started in Lafayette, Louisiana by the artist Cupid. It was first introduced in late 2006.
5. **Elementary School:** A school for the first four to six grades, and usually including kindergarten.
6. **Fais Do-Do:** A Cajun dance party.
7. **Festival:** A day or period of celebration.
8. **Main Street:** The principal street of a town, traditionally the site of shops, banks, and other businesses.
9. **Playground:** An outdoor area provided for children to play in, especially at a school or public park.
10. **Sugar Cane:** A species of tall, perennial grass that is used for sugar production.

## Creative Commons License



**CC BY-NC-ND:** This license allows reusers to copy and distribute the material in any medium or format in unadapted form only, for noncommercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator.

CC BY-NC-ND includes the following elements:

BY  – Credit must be given to the creator

NC  – Only noncommercial uses of the work are permitted

ND  – No derivatives or adaptations of the work are permitted



### About the Author

Bailey Ambrose is a 19-year-old freshman student attending The University of Louisiana at Lafayette majoring in Early Childhood Education. Bailey enjoys hanging out with her family and friends and swimming. Her dream is to become a kindergarten teacher.