**Turned Around**

**By Matthew Quinn**

***Daniel is a poor nine year old boy when on May 7th 1671 everything changed.***

***Daniel awoke to a bright sunny day; Daniel did not feel that bright. It had been only five dreadful days ago that his mother had caught a terrible illness called malaria and died. He tried not to think about it but he did.***

***He remembered her pale gray face as sickly as could be. He remembered her last words.***

***“Goodbye world, Goodbye life, I shall die happy.” How she closed her pretty eyes and never opened them again.***

***He also remembered his miserable sister Sarah that night lock herself in her room and refuse to come out. We heard her mourning that cold night.***

***“Snap out of it,” Daniel said to himself as he got out of bed and started toward the kitchen. He found his father there. His father threw him a piece of stale rock hard bread which he grasped out of the air hungrily. That’s all they lived on, stale bread.***

***“Not again,” Daniel whined. “When are you going to actually catch some fish?”***

***“Well to bad for you” said his grumpy father frustrated. “It’s all we got. Now go bring those fish that I caught to the market,” he said making sure Daniel knew that he caught them.***

***Daniel picked up the basket of fish by the door and headed out. Daniels father was a fisherman if you could hardly call him that, he caught very little fish, very little and always fell out the boat.***

***Daniel started to think about his mom again. How she was always on the upside and had fun every second. How she used to play got your nose and little Daniel really thought she had his nose. She really would make Daniel giggle. How she would poke holes in her bread with her thumb, it was her only toy.***

***He finally made it to the market and headed to the person he sold fish to.***

***“Good’ Morrow Daniel.”***

***“Good’ Morrow Sam.” Sam was a tall lean man with blond hair and crooked shiny teeth. He has bright blue eyes and long slender legs.***

***“Coming to sell me some more fish,” Sam asked***

***“Yes Sam.”***

***“Let’s see how much we got here.”***

***Sam paid Daniel a small amount of money and Daniel headed back home first buying some more stale bread.***

***On the way back Daniel saw a flyer on the ground He picked it up, brushed off the dirt and read it.***

***“Work needed for one task must be brave, tough, and strong, high reward. The Old Farm, Country road, Newbury settlement.”***

***Daniel got excited. His family really needed some money and he took this as the perfect chance. He headed in the direction of Country Road. He forget six words though, must be brave, tough, and strong, he was none.***

***When he got to the farm he headed up the stairs to the rusty door and knocked. “Knock, Knock, Knock,” the door opened and a big burly man appeared. He had dark green eyes and black hair. He had round a jolly belly but didn’t look so jolly on the face.***

***“Who are you,” He said in a deep voice.***

***“Daniels the name sir,”***

***“Daniel, well what are you doing here?”***

***“I saw your notice and I thought I was up for the job.”***

***“You, really, this ought to be fun. So what you got to do is see those woods,”***

***“Yes sir,”***

***“There’s a fox in there that eating all me sheep. It also almost got one of my three horses. I want you to go in there and kill it. Now I know you’re going to turn back so…,”***

***“I’ll do it sir,”***

***“Really, I bet you won’t make it back alive you puny little thing.”***

***Daniel started to worry. He had not hunted before and hated the thought of killing another living thing but he had to, for his family.***

***He slowly headed toward the dark woods. When he got to the edge he looked in. It was dark, gloomy and didn’t look like home. It smelled like blood and the air felt different. After finally overcoming his fear he ventured in. It was darker then it looked. He went in further. He thought***

***“How am I going to kill the fox if I don’t have a weapon?” He was about to turn back when “SSSSSsssssssssss,” out of a hole popped a glowing yellow snake.***

***“AHHHHHHHHHH,” Daniel cried. He got so overwhelmed he lifted his foot, and then lunged it on the snake. With a “Crunch” There lay the snake as dead as a doorknob.***

***Daniel stood there looking at it. All of a sudden a thought popped in Daniels head. Daniel knelt down and started to work. He started prying the bloody red fang straight out of the snake’s mouth. After a ton of hard work the fang finally came loose.***

***It was a thing of beauty to Daniel, two inches long and dangerously sharp. It had the look of a fresh kill at the point.***

***“I can use this,” Daniel said to himself. He started again. Further and Further. He heard a rustling, Daniel froze. Daniel freaked, more rustling. He got his new fang out and at the ready to strike. Then out of a bush hopped a white fluffy bunny!***

***Daniel was relieved. “Phew,” He started again. Further, Further. Beads of sweat were rolling down his face and landing on the ground with a soft “plop” Further, further, further. When at last Daniel thought he was going to drop to the ground he heard another rustling. “UH OH,” He said. This time the rustling was louder and clearly a bigger animal. All of a sudden above a bush appeared a bushy red fox’s tail.***

***When Daniel looked back at this moment all Daniel could remember was seeing a huge red fox flying through the air right toward him. Daniel closed his eyes, made his last words “mom,” and then threw the fang.***

***After*** ***waiting a while asked himself “Am I am heaven?” he opened his eyes and on the ground laid the fox with a snake fang in his stomach. He was dead!***

***Daniel whooped. He picked up the fox with renewed strength and ran all the way to the farmer’s house. He knocked on the door and showed the farmer the fox.***

***“Holy Cow! How’d you do it boy! Holy Cow, Holy Pigs! Calm down Ben. Daniel, Holy! Here’s your money, my names Benjamin by the way, Benjamin Rolfe. Stop by any time,” Ben handed him a sack of money.***

***“Thank you sir,” Daniel took the money and as he ran home he heard the farmer saying,***

***“Holy Cow, Holy Pigs, holy Chickens…,”***

***Daniel arrived at his house and saw and definitely heard his sister shouting.***

***“Father caught a seven foot fish; father caught a seven foot fish!” Now it was Daniels turn for a “Holy Cow,” Daniel ran inside and showed his father the money. Daniels father celebrated. Daniels father told him the fish was dinner for two weeks, that’s a long time for one fish.***

***The rest of the day we celebrated. That night we had a toast.***

***“To Mom,” we said. That was the first night in Daniel’s life Daniel had a full belly.***