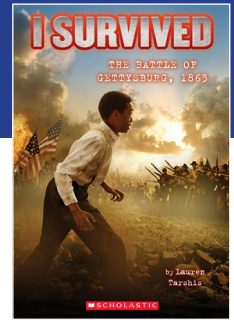


I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863



CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Who are Thomas and Birdie, and where do they live? Who is Clem, and what did he do for Thomas and Birdie?

2. Why and how do Thomas and Birdie flee on page 9?

3. How do Birdie and Thomas help the Union soldier who is being chased by rebel soldiers? Where do they go afterward?

4. How do Birdie and Thomas spend their days in the camp? What kind of work do they do?

5. What advantage did the rebels have at Fredericksburg? How did this affect the Union Army?

Name: _____

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CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

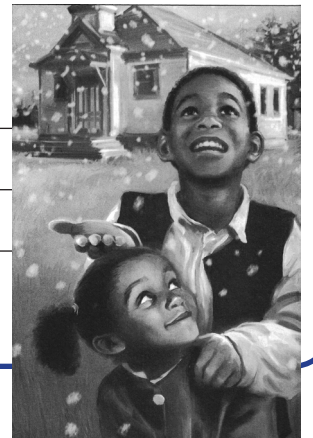
6. Where is Henry from and what is it like there? Who is Mary, and what do Henry and Mary do for work?

7. Who or what goes missing after the rebel cavalry attack on page 47? What does Thomas do about it?

8. Who comes to help Thomas and Birdie escape the rebel soldiers who've captured them?

9. What does Henry make Thomas promise before Henry goes into battle? What does Henry give Thomas for safekeeping?

10. Where are Thomas and Birdie at the end of the book? Who are they with, and who will be joining them?



Name: _____

I Survived The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT: Choose one of the letter-writing options below. Share your letter with your classmates or *I Survived* book-club friends.

- Imagine you are Mary, responding to a letter that Henry sent you in which he told you about Thomas and Birdie and how he wants them to live with you. Write back and tell Henry that you can't wait to meet them and ask specific questions about them. Be sure to also tell Henry how things are in the school where you both teach as well as in your town, and what kinds of things you look forward to doing together when he returns.
- Imagine you are Clem, responding to a letter from Thomas and Birdie about how much they miss you and can't wait for you to come live with them in Vermont. Write back and explain why it's so important to you to fight for the Union Army after your experiences. Also tell Thomas and Birdie how you picture the life you'll all have together when you return.

I Survived The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863

ANSWERS

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Thomas and Birdie are brother and sister, and they live on the farm where they were born slaves. Clem is their older cousin who looked after Thomas and Birdie after their mother died and taught them about freedom before he was taken away.
2. The men who took Clem come back to Mr. Knox's farm, and Birdie hears them say that they've come for Thomas. Thomas takes Birdie's hand and they run into the forest.
3. After Birdie notices the skunk, Thomas grabs it and throws it at the rebels. The rebels' horses run away, and the rebels go after them, leaving the Union soldier behind. After the Union soldier introduces Thomas and Birdie to his captain, Thomas and Birdie go to the Union Army camp with the men.
4. Thomas helps the men with their chores, listens to their stories, and watches them practice their battle formations and shooting. Birdie helps Lester and Homer with the supply wagons.
5. The rebels had the high ground at Fredericksburg, meaning that they were up on the hills. This made it easy for them to fire on the Union soldiers, who had to run across a field to get to the hills. Many Union soldiers were wounded or killed.
6. Henry is from a town in Vermont that smells like apples in the fall and gets snow in the winter. Mary is Henry's sweetheart, and they are both teachers at the school in their town.
7. After the rebel cavalry attack, Thomas realizes Birdie is missing. When Captain Campbell says that they can't go look for her because their orders are to head into battle, Thomas takes off into the woods to search for her himself.
8. Captain Campbell, Henry, and other Union soldiers come to help Thomas and Birdie escape the rebel soldiers, demanding that the men hand over the children.
9. Henry makes Thomas promise that he and Birdie will go to Vermont to live with Henry's family, no matter what. He gives Thomas Mary's book of paintings for safekeeping.
10. At the end of the book, Thomas and Birdie are in Vermont. They are living with Henry's parents, and Clem plans to join them after he's done fighting for the Union Army.

LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

Answers will vary.