Reading Through the Civil War: An Intermediate Literature Discussion Unit For Elementary Students Using Four Books from the Dear America Series

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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Abstract

This literature based discussion unit is divided into six sections. The first section includes a rationale as to why this unit is valuable, and includes the correlating Fourth and Fifth grade required English/Language Arts standards and proficiencies taught within the unit. These standards and proficiencies are based on the Standard Guides published by the Indiana Department of Education in 2000. Section two includes a sample meeting agenda, a sample schedule, and a sample evaluation checklist used during each meeting, as a guide for future users to follow if desired. Section three contains the various vocabulary lists and quizzes that connect to each book. These lists incorporate vocabulary that is both meaningful and necessary to the comprehension of the literature. The fourth section is a collection of the various materials and activities that students complete to demonstrate their knowledge of the chosen texts. These activities have been chosen using Bloom’s Taxonomy, a scale illustrating the different levels of thinking that students use to demonstrate learning, as well as Howard Gardner’s multiple intelligences. Section five includes a bibliography of sources used, as well as a bibliography of trade books that can be used as an enrichment independent exploration activity for children to explore more in-depth about the topics of the Civil War and the Underground Railroad. The final section includes a written reflective piece examining the knowledge that I have gained from teaching this unit, and ways that I feel it could be improved upon in future usage.
Acknowledgements
Many sincere thanks are owed to Mrs. Sondra Powell, my thesis advisor, for taking over the supervision of this intense process. Her input and advice have proved to be invaluable in the planning and implementation of this unit, and have reaped great educational rewards, not only at the collegiate level with me, but also with the students at Mt. Comfort Elementary School. I would also like to thank Mrs. LaVonne Mitchell, my student teaching supervisor, for allowing me to take over her reading class, and implement this unit. Without her guidance, this unit would simply be words on paper, but she allowed it to become a reality, and a superb learning experience. Thank you both for all of the time and effort that you gave to make this project a success.
Section One

Rationale and Correlating Indiana State Standards for Fourth and Fifth Grade Language Arts
Rationale

I feel that this literature-based discussion unit is a very useful and important addition to any intermediate level reading class. This unit incorporates many state issued standards and proficiencies, and includes a variety of methods to demonstrate student comprehension. I feel that this unit is useful because it is a way to integrate Social Studies and Language Arts. It also allows the students to not only read about the specific isolated events that took place during the historical era of the American Civil War, but also helps them visualize and understand the emotional turmoil that the people involved were facing. These stories allow the student to become the character, and truly experience the feelings, thoughts, and actions that these characters encounter throughout this war. In addition, the use of group discussion expands each student’s learning by being exposed to the thoughts, ideas, and opinions of his/her peers.

As a child, I loved to read, but I was not fond of History class. All of the memorization and irrelevant facts made my head spin. However, if I had been able to read and understand about how the people felt who were living through these events, I would have been more willing to pay attention. By using this unit as a supplement to your Social Studies curriculum, you may awaken many students who may have high Linguistic Intelligence to the wonderful world of history. Also, many of the activities used in this unit incorporate art, so you can also reach those students who are Spatially Intelligent as well. I have tried to select a variety of activities that can appeal to all students, irregardless of their dominant intelligence. Also, I have chosen activities that demonstrate several higher-order thinking skills, based on Bloom’s Taxonomy. By giving the students a choice in their activities, I think that the children feel more ownership and pride in their learning and their performance, so I expect great results from this unit. I truly believe that this unit is beneficial in the intermediate elementary level, and I plan to implement it in my own classroom.
English/Language Arts Standards Incorporated

GRADE 4

STANDARD 1 – READING: Word Recognition, Fluency, and Vocabulary Development

4.1.1 Read aloud grade-appropriate narrative text (stories) and expository text (information) with fluency and accuracy and with appropriate timing, changes in voice, and expression. (Buddy reading forms, Discussion in meetings)

4.1.6 Distinguish and interpret words with multiple meanings (quarters) by using context clues (the meaning of the text around the word). (Discussion meetings)

STANDARD 2 – READING: Reading Comprehension

4.2.3 Make and confirm predictions about text by using prior knowledge and ideas presented in the text itself, including illustrations, titles, topic sentences, important words, and foreshadowing. (Discussion meetings)

4.2.4 Evaluate new information and hypotheses (statements of theories) by testing them against known information and ideas. (Discussion meetings)

STANDARD 3 – READING: Literary Response and Analysis

4.3.2 Identify the main events of the plot, their causes, and the effects of each event on future actions. (Discussion meetings and various activities)

4.3.3 Use knowledge of the situation and setting and of a character’s traits and motivations to determine the causes for that character’s actions. (Discussion meetings and various activities)

STANDARD 5 – WRITING: Writing Applications

4.5.2 Write responses to literature. (Daily journals)
STANDARD 6 – WRITING: Written English Language Conventions

4.6.1 Write smoothly and legibly in cursive, forming letters and words easily that can be read by others. (All assignments)

4.6.5 Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to identify titles of documents. (All activities)

STANDARD 7 – LISTENING AND SPEAKING: Listening and Speaking Skills, Strategies, and Applications

4.7.1 Ask thoughtful questions and respond orally to relevant questions with appropriate elaboration. (Discussion meetings)

4.7.7 Emphasize points in a way that helps the listener or viewer follow important ideas and concepts. (Discussion meetings)

4.7.8 Use examples, details, anecdotes (stories of a specific event), or experiences to explain or clarify information. (Discussion meetings)

GRADE 5

STANDARD 1 – READING: Word Recognition, Fluency, and Vocabulary Development

5.1.1 Read aloud grade-appropriate narrative text (stories) and expository text (information) fluently and accurately and with appropriate timing, changes in voice, and expression. (Buddy reading, Discussion in meetings)

STANDARD 2 – READING: Reading Comprehension

5.2.1 Use the features of informational texts, such as formats, graphics, diagrams, illustrations, charts, maps, and organization, to find information and support understanding. (Discussion meetings) Although these books are works of fiction, there is a historical note in the back that uses maps, pictures, and other features to build up students’ understanding of the story.
5.2.4 Draw inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about text and support them with textual evidence and prior knowledge. (Discussion meetings)

STANDARD 3 – READING: Literary Response and Analysis

5.3.2 Identify the main problem or conflict of the plot and explain how it was resolved. (Discussion meetings and various activities)

5.3.3 Contrast the actions, motives, and appearances in a work of fiction and discuss the importance of the contrast to the plot or theme. (Discussion meetings and various activities)

5.3.4 Understand that THEME refers to the meaning or moral of a selection and recognize themes, whether they are implied or stated directly, in sample works. (Discussion meetings and various activities)

5.3.5 Describe the function and effect of common literary devices, such as imagery, metaphor, and symbolism. (Discussion meetings and various activities) *Our main focus was on imagery and descriptive language

STANDARD 5 – WRITING: Writing Applications

5.5.2 Write responses to literature. (Daily journals)

5.5.5 Use varied word choices to make writing interesting. (Various activities)

STANDARD 7 – LISTENING AND SPEAKING: Listening and Speaking Skills, Strategies, and Applications

5.7.1 Ask questions that seek information not already discussed. (Discussion meetings)

5.7.5 Clarify and support spoken ideas with evidence and examples. (Discussion meetings)

5.7.11 Deliver oral responses to literature. (Discussion Meetings)
Section Two

Sample Agenda, Weekly Schedule, and Sample Evaluation Checklist
Sample Schedule

MONDAY and THURSDAY
10:50 – 11:00 Silent Reading Time
11:00 – 11:30 Patsy Group
11:30 – 12:00 James Group
(Emma and Clotee Groups Independent Study Time)

WEDNESDAY
10:50 – 11:00 Silent Reading Time
11:00 – 11:15 Group Activity
11:15 – 11:45 Computer Lab
11:45 – 12:00 Finish Group Activity

TUESDAY and FRIDAY
10:50 – 11:00 Silent Reading Time
11:00 – 11:30 Emma Group
11:30 – 12:00 Clotee Group
(Patsy and James Independent Study Time)
Sample Meeting Agenda

(Based on a 30 minute meeting)

3 minutes – Materials Checklist

5 minutes – Share New Words and Plot Profiles

5 to 10 minutes – Share Journals

10 to 15 minutes – Discussion

2 minutes – Assign next reading
# Group Checklist

**Title/Author:** Clotee

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Student Names</th>
<th>Observable Items</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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| Alex Beck          | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
| Darin Barnett      | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
| Michelle Jordan    | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
| Liana Hansen       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
| Jessica Linville   |   -     | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
| Ben Linder         | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |

| Alex Beck          | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
| Darin Barnett      | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
| Michelle Jordan    | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
| Liana Hansen       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
| Jessica Linville   | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
| Ben Linder         | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       | ✓       |
Section Three

Vocabulary Lists and Quizzes
1. **Acute**: (adj) - sharp or severe
2. **Balefully**: (adv) - threateningly
3. **Coax**: (v) - to persuade gently
4. **Compassion**: (n) - a feeling of sympathy or sorrow toward someone who is suffering
5. **Desolate**: (adj) - sad and lonely
6. **Destitute**: (adj) - having no food, shelter or clothing; poor
7. **Dubious**: (adj) - doubtful
8. **Emulate**: (v) - to strive to equal or excel
9. **Hallowed**: (adj) - sacred or holy
10. **Loathsome**: (adj) - disgusting
11. **Melancholy**: (adj) - very sad
12. **Mirth**: (n) - gladness accompanied by laughter
13. **Perseverance**: (n) - the act of not giving up
14. **Profound**: (adj) - very deeply thought or felt
15. **Shambles**: (n) - a mess
16. **Soiree**: (n) - a party held in the evening
17. **Steadfast**: (adj) - firm and steady; not changing
18. **Trepidation**: (n) - fear
19. **Valiant**: (adj) - brave or courageous
20. **Chide**: (v) - to scold or find fault with someone
1. **Adamant**: (adj) - unshakable

2. **Adversity**: (n) - hardship or misfortune

3. **Blockade**: (n) - the closing off of an area to keep people and supplies in or out

4. **Composure**: (n) - a state of calm or self-control

5. **Countenance**: (n) - the look or expression on the face

6. **Vex**: (v) - to annoy or irritate somebody

7. **Deprivation**: (n) - being without the necessities of life

8. **Diligent**: (adj) - working hard and carefully

9. **Diminish**: (V) - to make smaller or weaker

10. **Wan**: (adj) - pale and sickly

11. **Fickle**: (adj) - of constantly changing opinion

12. **Futile**: (adj) - a waste of time; useless

13. **Impudent**: (adj) - rude, bold and outspoken

14. **Insubordination**: (n) - disobedience to authority

15. **Obstinate**: (adj) - stubborn and unwilling to change your mind

16. **Orate**: (v) - to speak in a showy, pompous way

17. **Waver**: (v) - to be uncertain or unsteady

18. **Warranted**: (adj) - deserved

19. **Solace**: (n) - comfort, relief from sorrow

20. **Tolerate**: (v) - to put up with; to endure
1. _______ Acute (adj)  
2. _______ Balefully (adv)  
3. _______ Coax (v)  
4. _______ Compassion (n)  
5. _______ Desolate (adj)  
6. _______ Destitute (adj)  
7. _______ Dubious (adj)  
8. _______ Emulate (v)  
9. _______ Hallowed (adj)  
10. _______ Loathsome (adj)  
11. _______ Melancholy (adj)  
12. _______ Mirth (n)  
13. _______ Perseverance (n)  
14. _______ Profound (adj)  
15. _______ Shambles (n)  
16. _______ Soiree (n)  
17. _______ Steadfast (adj)  
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19. _______ Valiant (adj)  
20. _______ Chide (v)  

A. Sad and lonely  
B. Doubtful  
C. A feeling of sympathy or sorrow toward someone who is suffering  
D. Sharp or severe  
E. To persuade gently  
F. Disgusting  
G. Having no food, shelter, or clothing  
H. Threateningly  
I. To strive to equal or excel  
J. Sacred or holy  

K. Very deeply thought or felt  
L. Fear  
M. To scold or find fault with someone  
N. Gladness accompanied by laughter  
O. Very sad  
P. A mess  
Q. Brave or courageous  
R. A party held in the evening  
S. The act of not giving up  
T. Firm and steady; not changing
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<thead>
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<tbody>
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<td>1. _______Admant (adj)</td>
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A. To annoy or irritate somebody  
B. To make smaller or weaker  
C. A state of calm or self-control  
D. Working hard and carefully  
E. Unshakable  
F. The closing off of an area to keep people and supplies in or out  
G. Pale and sickly  
H. The look or expression on the face  
I. Being without the necessities of life  
J. Hardship or misfortune  
K. A waste of time; useless  
L. Deserved  
M. To put up with; to endure  
N. Disobedience to authority  
O. Of constantly changing opinion  
P. Stubborn and unwilling to change your mind  
Q. To speak in a showy, pompous way  
R. To be uncertain or unsteady  
S. Comfort, relief from sorrow  
T. Rude, bold, and outspoken
Patsy, A Freed Slave

Vocabulary Part One

1. **Accumulate** (v) - to collect things or let them pile up

2. **Accustomed** (adj) - being in the habit or custom

3. **Arbor** (n) - a place surrounded by trees shrubs, or vines

4. **Board** (v) - to provide with regular meals and lodging for pay

5. **Bound** (adj) - placed under legal obligation

6. **Calico** (n) - plain cotton cloth printed with a colorful pattern

7. **Capacity** (n) - role, position, or function

8. **Chamber** (n) - a room

9. **Compress** (n) - a cloth pad placed on the body to supply heat, cold, moisture or medicine

10. **Convention** (n) - a large gathering of people with similar interests

11. **Elite** (n) - a group of people with special advantages and privileges

12. **Fortunate** (adj) - lucky

13. **Magistrate** (n) - a government official who enforces the law

14. **Pallet** (n) - a small, hard, or temporary bed

15. **Penitentiary** (n) - a prison for people found guilty of serious crimes

16. **Quarters** (n) - lodgings, or rooms where people live

17. **Recollection** (n) - memory

18. **Rickety** (adj) - old, weak, and likely to break

19. **Slate** (n) - thin piece of rock used as a writing surface

20. **Vigilante** (n) - member of a group that stops and punishes crime outside of the law
1. **Advent**: (n) - the beginning of something important

2. **Ambush**: (n) - to hide and attack someone

3. **Apprentice**: (n) - someone who learns a trade or craft by working with a skilled person

4. **Boil**: (n) - an infected lump under the skin

5. **Cauldron**: (n) - a large, rounded cooking pot

6. **Chink**: (n) - a narrow opening

7. **Curtail**: (v) - to shorten

8. **Emancipation**: (n) - the act or process of freeing people from slavery

9. **Fertile**: (adj) - producing vegetation or fruit in great quantities

10. **Grits**: (n) - coarsely ground corn eaten as a cereal

11. **Hominy**: (n) - hulled kernels of corn

12. **Overseer**: (n) - supervisor

13. **Pelt**: (v) - to strike or beat again and again

14. **Row**: (n) - a noisy fight or quarrel

15. **Swoon**: (v) - to faint, often from excitement

16. **Twaddle**: (n) - silly, unimportant talk

17. **Uncouth**: (adj) - rough and rude

18. **Vagrancy**: (n) - the state of wandering from place to place with no means of support

19. **Venerate**: (v) - to respect greatly

20. **Association**: (n) - an organization, club, or society
Patsy, A Freed Slave

1. ______ Accumulate (v)
2. ______ Accustomed (adj)
3. ______ Arbor (n)
4. ______ Board (v)
5. ______ Bound (adj)
6. ______ Calico (n)
7. ______ Capacity (n)
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A. Role, position, or function
B. To provide with regular meals and lodging for pay
C. A room
D. Being in the habit or custom
E. Placed under legal obligation
F. A place surrounded by trees, shrubs, or vines
G. Plain cotton cloth printed with a colorful pattern
H. To collect things or let them pile up
I. A cloth pad placed on the body to supply heat cold, moisture or medicine
J. A large gathering of people with similar interests

K. Memory
L. A government official who enforces the law
M. A small, hard, or temporary bed
N. Thin piece of rock used as a writing surface
O. Member of a group that stops and punishes crime outside of the law
P. Lucky
Q. A group of people with special advantages and privileges
R. Lodgings, or rooms where people live
S. Old, weak, and likely to break
T. A prison for people found guilty of serious crimes
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A. A narrow opening  
B. To hide and attack someone  
C. Coarsely ground corn eaten as a cereal  
D. An infected lump under the skin  
E. The act or process of freeing people from slavery  
F. A large, rounded cooking pot  
G. The beginning of something important  
H. Someone who learns a trade or craft by working with a skilled person  
I. To shorten  
J. Producing vegetation or fruit in great quantities  

K. To respect greatly  
L. Rough and rude  
M. A noisy fight or quarrel  
N. Hulled kernels of corn  
O. To faint, often from excitement  
P. Supervisor  
Q. Silly, unimportant talk  
R. To strike or beat again and again  
S. An organization, club, or society  
T. The state of wandering from place to place with no means of support
Clotee, A Slave Girl  Vocabulary Part One

1. **Quill**: (n) - a pen made from the hollow stem of a feather
2. **Okra**: (n) - a green vegetable often used in soup
3. **Freedom**: (n) - liberty of choice or action
4. **Compression**: (n) - the act of pressing together
5. **Addled**: (adj) - mixed-up; confused
6. **Seamstress**: (n) - one who sews
7. **Befuddled**: (adj) - unaware of your surroundings
8. **Jockey**: (n) - one who races horses
9. **Strut**: (v) - to walk proudly and conceitedly
10. **Salve**: (n) - a soothing ointment
11. **Petticoat**: (n) - an underskirt worn by women
12. **Fret**: (v) - to worry
13. **Meddler**: (n) - someone who is concerned with other people’s business
14. **Pallet**: (n) - a small, hard, or temporary bed
15. **Sternly**: (adv) - in a severe and harsh way
16. **Circumstances**: (n) - a condition
17. **Collards**: (n) - a variety of cabbage
18. **Pride**: (n) - a feeling of personal dignity and worth
19. **Loft**: (n) - a space directly under the roof
20. **Conductor**: (n) - a guide or escort
1. **Down**: (n) - the fine, soft feather of birds
2. **Lashing**: (v) - to severely whip
3. **Stocky**: (adj) - short and fat
4. **Overseer**: (n) - a supervisor
5. **Elder**: (n) - an older member of the family
6. **Juba**: (n) - an African American instrument
7. **Limp**: (adj) - without stiffness
8. **Lurch**: (v) - to move unsteadily; stagger
9. **Potion**: (n) - a liquid having medicinal value
10. **Link**: (n) - a connection
11. **Ranks**: (n) - a common body of soldiers
12. **Pitiful**: (adj) - miserable or depressing
13. **Raging**: (v) - showing violent anger
14. **Swoon**: (v) - to faint, often from excitement
15. **Valor**: (n) - bravery
16. **Activist**: (n) - one who works toward a cause
17. **Legacy**: (n) - something handed down from an earlier time
18. **Epitaph**: (n) - inscription on a gravestone
19. **Preserves**: (n) - jelly
20. **Rake**: (v) - to gather by great effort
Clotee, A Slave Girl

1. ______ Quill (n)        11. ______ Petticoat (n)
2. ______ Okra (n)         12. ______ Fret (v)
3. ______ Freedom (n)      13. ______ Meddler (n)
4. ______ Compression (n)  14. ______ Pallet (n)
5. ______ Addled (adj)     15. ______ Sternly (adv)
6. ______ Seamstress (n)   16. ______ Circumstances (n)
7. ______ Befuddled (adj)  17. ______ Collards (n)
8. ______ Jockey (n)       18. ______ Pride (n)
9. ______ Strut (v)        19. ______ Loft (n)
10. ______ Salve (n)       20. ______ Conductor (n)

A. One who sews
B. To walk proudly and conceitedly
C. Mixed-up; confused
D. One who races horses
E. A soothing ointment
F. A pen made from the hollow of a feather
G. Liberty of choice or action
H. A green vegetable often used in soup
I. The act of pressing together
J. Unaware of your surroundings

K. A guide or escort
L. To worry
M. A condition
N. A variety of cabbage
O. A feeling of personal dignity and worth
P. A space directly under the roof
Q. A small, hard, or temporary bed
R. Someone who is concerned with other people's business
S. An underskirt worn by women
T. In a severe and harsh way
A Slave Girl

Vocabulary Quiz #2

1. _______Down (n)
2. _______Lashing (v)
3. _______Stocky (adj)
4. _______Overseer (n)
5. _______Elder (n)
6. _______Juba (n)
7. _______Limp (adj)
8. _______Lurch (v)
9. _______Potion (n)
10. _______Link (n)

11. _______Ranks (n)
12. _______Pitiful (adj)
13. _______Raging (v)
14. _______Swoon (v)
15. _______Valor (n)
16. _______Activist (n)
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18. _______Epitaph (n)
19. _______Preserves (n)
20. _______Rake (v)

A. A supervisor  
B. Without stiffness  
C. To severely whip  
D. A connection  
E. An older member of the family  
F. The fine, soft feathers of birds  
G. Short and fat  
H. A liquid having medicinal value  
I. An African American instrument  
J. To move unsteadily; stagger  
K. One who works toward a cause  
L. Jelly  
M. Showing violent anger  
N. A common body of soldiers  
O. To gather by great effort  
P. Miserable or depressing  
Q. Bravery  
R. Inscription on a gravestone  
S. To faint, often from excitement  
T. Something handed down from an earlier time
The Journal of James Edmond Pease   Vocabulary Part One

1. **Adjutant:** (n) - an officer who assists the commander

2. **Ague:** (n) - an illness marked by chills, fever and sweating that occurs at regular intervals

3. **Artillery:** (n) - large powerful guns; the part of the army that uses these guns

4. **Caisson:** (n) - a chest to hold ammunition

5. **Chevron:** (n) - a striped sleeve badge showing rank and service

6. **Commence:** (v) - to begin

7. **Deliverance:** (n) - rescue

8. **Ford:** (n) - a shallow part of a stream that can be crossed by wading

9. **Glower:** (v) - to stare angrily at someone

10. **Greenhorn:** (n) - a newcomer who is unfamiliar with an organization

11. **Hardtack:** (n) - a saltless hard biscuit made of flour and water

12. **Minie Ball:** (n) - a rifle bullet with a cone-shaped head

13. **Mite:** (n) - a small amount

14. **Picket:** (n) - a detached group of soldiers who guard an army from surprise attacks

15. **Quinine:** (n) - a medicine made from the bark of the cinchona tree

16. **Recruit:** (n) - someone who has recently joined a group, such as the army

17. **Siege:** (n) - a persistent attack

18. **Silhouette:** (n) - a two-dimensional outline of an object

19. **Skirmish:** (n) - a minor fight in a war

20. **Sutler:** (n) - a civilian shopkeeper at an army post
1. **Array**: (n) - an orderly arrangement
2. **Cavalry**: (n) - soldiers who fight on horseback
3. **Consent**: (n) - approval of what is done or proposed by another
4. **Cooper**: (n) - a person who makes and repairs wooden tubs
5. **Courier**: (n) - a messenger
6. **Desertion**: (n) - an act of leaving a military post without permission
7. **Laggard**: (n) - one who stays or falls behind
8. **Loafer**: (n) - someone who is lazy and lacks energy
9. **Muster**: (v) - to assemble in a group
10. **Pious**: (adj) - practices religion faithfully
11. **Pontoon Bridge**: (n) - a floating temporary bridge
12. **Refugee**: (n) - a person who runs away to escape danger
13. **Regimental**: (adj) - relating to a military unit called a regiment
14. **Reserves**: (n) - military forces withheld from action for later use
15. **Scythe**: (n) - A tool with a long curving blade used to cut grass or wheat
16. **Sharpshooter**: (n) - someone who is skilled and shooting and hitting a mark or target
17. **Sordid**: (adj) - filthy, dirty
18. **Stockade**: (n) - an enclosure or pen made with posts and stakes
19. **Volley**: (n) - a flight of missiles, such as rocks, bullets, or artillery shells
20. **Deluge**: (n) - An overwhelming amount or number
The Journal of James Edmond Pease

Vocabulary Quiz #1

1. _____ Adjutant (n)  
2. _____ Ague (n)  
3. _____ Artillery (n)  
4. _____ Caisson (n)  
5. _____ Chevron (n)  
6. _____ Commence (v)  
7. _____ Deliverance (n)  
8. _____ Ford (n)  
9. _____ Glower (v)  
10. _____ Greenhorn (n)  
11. _____ Hardtack (n)  
12. _____ Minie Ball (n)  
13. _____ Mite (n)  
14. _____ Picket (n)  
15. _____ Quinine (n)  
16. _____ Recruit (n)  
17. _____ Siege (n)  
18. _____ Silhouette (n)  
19. _____ Skirmish (n)  
20. _____ Sutler (n)

A. To stare angrily at someone
B. Rescue
C. A newcomer who is unfamiliar with an organization
D. A striped sleeve badge showing rank and service
E. Large powerful guns; the part of the army that uses these guns
F. To begin
G. An officer who assists the commander
H. An illness marked by chills, fever and sweating that occurs regularly
I. A shallow part of a stream that can be crossed by wading
J. A chest to hold ammunition
K. A minor fight in a war
L. A small amount
M. A medicine made from the bark of the Cinchona tree
N. A two – dimensional outline of an object
O. A saltless hard biscuit
P. A detached group of soldiers who guard an army from surprise attacks
Q. A civilian shopkeeper at an army post
R. A rifle bullet with a cone shaped head
S. Someone who has recently joined a group, such as the military
T. A persistent attack
The Journal of James Edmond Pease

1. ______ Array (n) 11. ______ Pontoon Bridge (n)
2. ______ Cavalry (n) 12. ______ Refugee (n)
3. ______ Consent (n) 13. ______ Regimental (adj)
4. ______ Cooper (n) 14. ______ Reserves (n)
5. ______ Courier (n) 15. ______ Scythe (n)
6. ______ Desertion (n) 16. ______ Sharpshooter (n)
7. ______ Laggard (n) 17. ______ Sordid (adj)
8. ______ Loafer (n) 18. ______ Stockade (n)
9. ______ Muster (v) 19. ______ Volley (n)
10. ______ Pious (adj) 20. ______ Deluge (n)

A. Someone who is lazy and lacks energy
B. An act of leaving a military post without permission
C. A messenger
D. Soldiers who fight on horseback
E. To assemble in a group
F. A person who makes and repairs wooden tubs
G. Approval of what is done or proposed by another
H. An orderly arrangement
I. One who stays or falls behind
J. Practices religion faithfully
K. A flight of missiles, such as rocks, bullets, or artillery
L. Filthy, dirty
M. An overwhelming amount or number
N. A tool with a long curving blade used to cut grass or wheat
O. A floating temporary bridge
P. Military forces withheld from action for later use
Q. An enclosure or pen made with posts and stakes
R. A person who runs away to escape danger
S. Someone who is skilled in shooting and hitting a target
T. Relating to a military unit called a regiment
Section Four

Activities and Discussion Questions
Used During the Implementation of the Unit
Discussion Questions for Patsy, a Freed Girl

Page 3 - Mistress Davis says, "It is illegal to teach slaves. It spoils them." **Do you think that this is true? Why? If you disagree, why do you think that it is illegal for slave owners to teach their slaves to read?

Page 5 - Patsy makes the statement, "...everything is changing and remaining the same all at once." **How is this possible? What is changing in Patsy's life? What is staying the same? Have you ever had this feeling in your life? When?

Page 8 - Patsy makes coffee out of sweet potatoes! **Was this surprising to you? Would you like to taste this "coffee"? Why or why not?

Page 8- Patsy writes in her diary, “You see friend, I have a problem. When I write to you the words come out easily, not the way I stutter and stammer when I speak, which is why people think I am dim-witted.” **Do you think that the way a person talks always reflects how smart they are? Why or why not? What examples can you think of in which appearances can be deceiving?

Page 10 - After the Negroes hear about the death of Abraham Lincoln, they become concerned. Cook says, "Maybe we not free then, since the man who free us is de..." **Do you think that they are still free? What would happen if the Davises tried to take away the slaves new freedom?

Page 15 - At the meeting with the Yankees, the soldiers outline the conditions of the slaves' "freedom". They have to follow the rules and work, or they will be jailed. They are not allowed to "roam about and cause trouble." **With these new rules, do you think that the slaves are truly "free"? How do these rules compare to the rules in our society today?

Page 19- Patsy writes, “Somehow I don’t think I am free or anybody else is. All of us in the house and in the fields are all doing our same tasks. Who did the Yankees free? I wonder.” **What do you think of when you hear the word “freedom”? What was freedom like for most slaves right after the war? Why was the reality not like what they had thought?

Page 21 - Patsy recalls the first time she noticed Douglas. She comments that back then he was a skinny boy, and not "as tall and handsome as he is now." **Why do you think Patsy is thinking these thoughts? Do you predict that something will happen between Patsy and Douglass during the book?

Page 25 - Mistress Davis calls James "lazy trash, just like the rest of them." **Do you think that James is lazy trash for running away? Why or why not? Do the other slaves seem like lazy trash to you? Why do you think that Mistress Davis said that? Have you
ever said anything that you may not have really meant? Why did you say it? What happened in the end?

Page 30- When the master shouted at the overseer, “Can’t you control the hands?” the overseer replied, “If I can’t whip them anymore, I can’t control them.” **Do you think that physical punishment is the only way to get people to listen to you? What are some alternatives to violence? Why do you think that the overseer felt that physical threats were the only way to control the farm hands?

Page 33 - Patsy admires Douglass for his bravery in speaking out to Mr. Davis. Patsy feels ashamed and embarrassed because of her stuttering speech. **Do you think that she should feel ashamed? Why or why not?

Page 35 - Nancy makes the comment that Master and Mistress are sad that everyone is leaving. Cook replies and says, "They sad because slavery is over and we all is equal now." **Which thought do you agree with? Why?

Page 40 - **Compare the method of ironing to that of today. Imagine that you were Patsy. How would you feel if you had to go through the whole ordeal of ironing that way?

Page 41-43 - Nancy's mother comes back to get her, since the war is over and slaves are free. However, Nancy will not go. **Why do you think Nancy wants to stay at Davis Hall? What clues from the reading make you think that? Would you choose to stay, or would you go? Why? Patsy says that she doesn't understand Nancy. Do you? Do you think she is odd, or does she have a reasonable idea for staying?

Page 45- When Cook describes Patsy right in front of her, it makes Patsy feel badly. "I don’t like it when people talk about me as if I am not even in the room.” **Have you ever had an experience like Patsy, when people talked about you like you weren’t even there? How did it make you feel?

Page 46- Patsy makes a comment that "...I mean no more to Ma'am and Sir than the objects they own. The only difference with me is that I can walk and talk, and not so good at that either." **What does Patsy mean by this? Do you think that it is true? Why or why not?

Page 48- Cook is leaving the plantation. **Predict what will happen to life on the plantation after Cook leaves. How will things change?

Page 50- Patsy says, "I wish I knew all along that Cook had taken care of me when I was a sick baby. I am sorry that I hated her sometimes and thought she was mean. She was just being Cook." **Have you ever been mean or disliked someone for a certain reason, and then found out that they were really just trying to be nice? What happened, and how did you correct the situation?
Page 51 - Patsy gets bold and smarts back to Nancy to clean the clothes herself. Unfortunately, Nancy didn't hear all of Patsy's statement. **What do you think is more important, Nancy hearing the comment, or Patsy having the guts to say it? Why do you feel that way?

Page 53 - **Why do you think that Patsy's favorite part of Goody Two-Shoes is when she teaches herself how to read, and then teaches other children? Do you think that the author is trying to tell us something about future events in the book? Predict what this makes you think.

Page 57 - In the bush arbor, the slaves sing a common spiritual song. **Look at the words in the back section of your book. What do you think is the significance of this song? And why do you think that the author chose a line from this as the book's title?

Page 59 - Patsy says that she felt free at the bush arbor. **Why do you think she felt freer there than at St. Philip's? Explain your reasons.

Page 61 - Ruth sasses back to Ma'am, and sticks up for Patsy. Patsy says that she admires Ruth, and wants to be more like her. **Who are some people that you admire, and what qualities about them do you want to try to copy?

Page 62/63 - Patsy writes, "It makes me feel strong to write about brave people...I will try to be like them." ** How does Patsy's retelling of Mister Joe's history make you think about Mister Joe? What are some good things in his life? What are some bad things?

Page 65- **What does Ruth mean when she tells Mister Joe that they already have their wings? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Page 68- At the bush arbor, Reverend McNeal says, "We should not remain angry with them because the past is done." **Do you think it will be easy for the slaves to forgive the white people for what they have done? Have you ever held a grudge when someone made you angry? How did you feel, and how did you handle it? What happened in the end?

Page 74- Reverend McNeal says that the brain is the most powerful tool the slaves have. **Do you agree with that? Why or why not? If you don't think that the brain is the most powerful tool, then what do you think is?

Page 79- Patsy is afraid that Ruth is preparing to leave Davis Hall, and is tempted to tell Ruth her secret. **Do you think that it will help the situation? Predict what will happen if Patsy does or does not tell Ruth.

Page 80- Patsy says, "Lately, I don't feel like Patsy, though. Inside I am beginning to feel like Ruth and Cook and Mister Joe, who do what their minds tell them to do." **How is this feeling different than how Patsy felt before? Why do you think Patsy's thoughts are changing?
Page 84- Patsy says, “My heart and head hold so many words and thoughts, but my mouth is like a jailer that won’t release them.” **What does she mean by this? Have you ever felt that way? What happened? How did you solve the problem?

Page 90- Brother Solomon is not telling Master Davis when Negroes are leaving. This means that the working slaves who stay will get a greater amount of money from the profits. **Do you think this an honest thing for Brother Solomon to do? Why or why not?

Page 93- ** What does Ruth mean when she calls Patsy a “little jewel that almost got lost under a pile of rags?” Do you agree with that title?

Page 94- **Why do you think that Patsy wanted to hide her face when everyone gathered around her? Have you ever felt that way when people have given you attention like that? Discuss.

Page 96- Something fishy must be going on in the cabins, since Ruth is going there all the time. **Predict what you think is going on out there.

Page 97- Patsy has begun teaching other slaves how to read and write. She laughs because it is odd for a young child to be teaching adults. **Tell about a time in your life where you were a teacher/leader for some adults. All teaching doesn’t have to happen in a school. You can be a teacher at home, too.

Page 98- **Why do you think that Ma’am and Sir hate the Republicans? Do you think that their hate is reasonable? Why or why not?

Page 101- Ruth says, “Patsy is a fine girl and knows better than to lick her mouth all over the place.” **What do you think this expression means? Do you often “lick your mouth all over the place” and say things that perhaps you aren’t supposed to? What is the consequence of that?

Page 104- Reverend McNeal’s life had been threatened. **Who do you think is threatening him? What reasons do they have? Predict what you think will happen to Rev. McNeal.

Page 108- Patsy says “…I am trying not to get too excited over the teacher this time because I don’t want to be disappointed again.” **Have you ever been disappointed once, and then tried very hard not to look forward to some exciting event because you were afraid of feeling disappointed again? What was the situation? Did it work?

Page 115- Teaching is Patsy’s way to forget about all of her worries and fears. **What are some things that you do to help you forget about all of your worries? Does it usually help you feel better?
Page 123- Patsy says “I am feeling like a different person now, my Friend. They really need me.” **How does a person change when they are needed? What feelings might they have? How would they feel about themselves? Discuss.

Page 129- Patsy has a feeling that she is supposed to stay at Davis Hall. **What reasons does she have to stay? What reasons does she have to go? What would you do if you were in Patsy’s position?

Page 132- **Predict how life at Davis Hall will change if Sir Davis dies. Will things get better or worse? Why do you feel this way?

Page 139- “If reading and writing isn’t important, then why wasn’t we allowed to learn how to do it?” **Patsy makes a good point with this statement. What do you think about it?

Page 143- Patsy wonders what Ma’am would do if she spoke up and said that she was too busy teaching to do all of the silly chores. **Predict what you think Ma’am would do or say to Patsy if she said that.

Page 145- Patsy makes the statement that “Black and white don’t much matter to them (the children).” **Do you think that all/most little kids are like that? Why do you think that they are more innocent than adults?

Page 152- Mister Joe calls Patsy “beautiful and smart” and compares her to his daughter. **Does this particular description of Patsy surprise you? Why or why not?

Page 153- Patsy wishes that Nancy would go ahead and tell Ma’am that she can read and write. **What do you think would happen if Mrs. Davis found out the truth about Patsy?

Page 159- Patsy is starting to regret staying at Davis Hall, and wonders if she should have gone with Ruth and John. **Do you think that she should have gone, or did she do the right thing and stay? Why do you think the way you do?

Page 162- Patsy named herself after Phillis Wheatley and Frederick Douglass. **Does this surprise you? What qualities about these two people are similar to Patsy? Which qualities are different? Who would you name yourself after, if you had to pick a new name for yourself? Why would you choose those people?

Page 164- Patsy says that this Christmas they have “the gift of ourselves.” **What does this mean? Also, Patsy wonders about her future. Predict what you think the future has in store for Patsy.

Page 168- **How do you feel about this ending? Do you think it ties the whole book together, or do you feel like you were left hanging. How could the author have ended it in a better way?
Page 168- In the end Patsy writes, "I feel like one of those magical Africans who can fly." **Why does Patsy feel this way? What has changed since she began writing in her journal?

Page 171 (Epilogue)- **Discuss the significance of the name of the freed slaves' village, Libertyville. What name would you give a town that you created?

Epilogue- **What does the epilogue tell us about Patsy's life? Is it what you had predicted? What aspects were similar to your predictions? Which of your predictions were wrong?
Discussion Question for The Journal of James Edmond Pease

Page 3- According to James, two men have already died while keeping the journal. **If you were James, how would this make you feel? Would you feel nervous?**

Page 4- Lt. Toms tells James he is pretty certain the boy will last to the end of the war because, “You are not one of those crazy patriot fools who sticks his head up high to show how brave you are.” **What does Lt. Toms mean by this remark? Do you think it was a compliment or an insult?**

Page 6- James writes about the army coffee and hardtack. **Do you think that you would enjoy eating hardtack and drinking army coffee? What if it was all that you had?**

Page 6- James writes that, to him, guarding the rear of the supply train is as good a job as any, “but does not sit well with the rest of the men, who are eager to see some fighting.” **If you were in a war, do you think that you would feel more like James or more like the other men? Why? Why do you think James is glad of the job that he’s got? Why do you think that the others want to see some fighting?**

Page 8- Charlie Shelp gave James the nickname “orphan boy”, and seems to be getting off on the wrong foot with many of the soldiers. **What is your first impression of Charlie Shelp, and what do you think his role will be throughout this book?**

Page 11- James gets $13 a month for being in the army. **What could you buy for thirteen dollars today? Do you consider that a lot of money? Do you get an allowance? How often do you get it? Do you make more than James?**

Page 11- James writes, “What happened at Gettysburg was a mistake. A terrible mistake, but an honest one.” He adds, “It was what we had been told and taught to do, after all, and no one who was there would have ever blamed us.” **What happened to James’ company at Gettysburg? Can you imagine soldiers making such a mistake? Do you think that mistake is forgivable? Is Lt. Toms responsible for what happened? Why or why not? Do you agree with the people who reduced his rank for it? What would you have done to Company G after the events at Gettysburg?**

Page 15- James feels that he is cursed. He was a curse to his parents, and he is afraid that the curse is following him. **What does James believe he is cursed with? Do you believe in good and bad luck? Are you a lucky person or an unlucky one? Why do you say that?**

Page 15- We discover that James’ aunt and uncle didn’t treat him very well. **How would you feel if your parents treated you the way that James’ aunt and uncle treated him?**

Page 16- James went outside one day to get away from his Aunt and Uncle’s angry stares. However, they didn’t seem to notice that he is wasn’t there. After they had gone
to bed, James writes, “I started walking down the road, taking away the one burden of theirs that I could.” **What would you have done if you were James? Would you have stayed even though you were unwelcome, or would you have left? What do you think of the way his aunt and uncle treated him? Was it right or wrong? Do you think that they had any choice? Give your reasons.

Page 18- As the soldiers marched, they came across definite signs of a previous attack. **What were the signs? How would you feel if you ran across a dead soldier in your path?

Page 24- Lt. Clapp has been promoted to the rank of Captain. **Why do you think Lt. Toms is upset at this? What could the soldiers do to help cheer him up?

Page 26- We discover that the troops have not been given their pay for quite some time. **How would you feel if you had a job where they didn’t pay you on time, and you had no idea when you would get paid next? Would you stay? How would you survive?

Page 28- Each time the troop stopped and camped for a long time, they built “stockade tents”. These may be quite elaborate constructions. **Design and draw your own stockade tent plan, and explain each part.

Page 30- James and his company are preparing for a “surprise action”. **Why is James worried? What does he mean when he says “So I will not have a quiet – and safe – winter after all!” Would you be worried too? Why or why not?

Page 31- Lt. Toms seems to think that James is doing a fine job on the journal. **Do you think that James is writing the journal well? Can you picture what is going on in your mind? What improvements could he make to make it better?

Page 33- James writes, “…I know what I heard, and I ducked- and just then the ball sent my forage cap sailing. I was so startled I just sat there on the ground, staring at my cap with its new ventilation hole thru the band and wondering what that ball would have done to my head if I hadn’t ducked.” **Do you see this as a lucky or unlucky event in James’ life? If you think it is lucky, do you think James is starting to break his bad luck chain, or is this just a fluke?

Page 36- James acts recklessly and charges headfirst into a screen of smoke. Fortunately, he comes out on top, and it called a hero by his commanders. **How do you think that James felt being called a hero? Do you think he was brave or foolish to do what he did?

Page 36- Through this new daring maneuver, we see luck peek its head out at James. **What do you think will happen next for James? Will this lucky streak continue? Why or why not? Predict.

Page 37- James writes, “The boys have been studying the recovered ball very carefully and say that it is a lucky charm, and I should keep it in my pocket.” **Do you think it is a
lucky charm? Why or why not? Do you have any lucky charms? What are they? Describe it.

Page 40- "And the dead Reb boy. He had come back too. I have been in fighting before, but this is the first time a memory had followed me so long after. Is this another part of my bad luck – to remember?" **Why would it be bad luck for James to remember?

Page 41- Some of the soldiers from James’ company are deserting. Their feelings about the Negroes and the cause aren’t the same as when they started. **Why don’t they feel the way they did at first? What made the difference? Would you stay in the company, or would you desert too? Why?

Page 41- Henry Clements, a member of James’ company, tells James that his family tried to keep him from having to go into the war by buying a substitute. But Henry did not think it an honorable thing to do, so he enlisted. **Do you think people should be allowed to buy substitutes to serve for them in a war? Why or why not? Who benefits from these laws? Who suffers? If you were drafted to be in the army, but could buy a substitute to go in your place, what would you do? Why?

Page 42- James and his fellow troops are sharing stories about why they enlisted into the army, and the best reasons to fight in this war. **What is James’ reason for joining? Do you think it is a good reason? Why or why not? What do you think is the best reason given for fighting in the war? Why?

Page 44- Due to the injuries of higher level officers, James is promoted to Corporal, but he is not happy about the move. **Why doesn’t James want to be Corporal? Would you want to be Corporal? Why or why not? What are 2 of James’ new duties as Corporal?

Page 47- In times of war and hardship, many people turn to God for answers. However, James does not. **What was James’ reason for not going to the church meeting? Would you have gone? Why or why not?

Page 48- Even in times of war, there are moments of fun and glimmers of happiness. This is evident in the snowball fight. **When James “took a ball of packed ice in the back if the head,” who do you think threw it? Why do you think he did it?

Page 49- Now Lt. Toms is criticizing the journal, saying, “I did not have to write so much and when I did it should be something ‘truly interesting or significant, and generally of military nature.’” **Do you think James is doing well in his writing? Is he adding good information? Why or why not?

Page 50- James receives a letter from Johnny’s sister, Sarah. In it she wishes him well, is awed by his courage, and asks if he will write back. **Why do you think that getting mail is so thrilling? Why was it especially thrilling for James? What do you think will happen with James and Sarah?
Page 51- After receiving the letter from Sarah, and spending the evening with Johnny, James says, “This is the nicest Christmas I can remember.” **What has been the nicest Christmas that you can remember? What made it so special?

Page 54- James is slowly getting promoted up the ranks of the army, but only because other higher officers are sick or wounded. Pease is concerned about moving up. **Why do you think that James is leery of moving up in rank? How would you feel if you were 15 and in charge of an army troop?

Page 55- Due to his new office, James has many more duties and responsibilities. **What are some of James’ duties as a sergeant? What are some duties and responsibilities that you have as a student? As a son or daughter?

Page 56/57- James and Charlie Shelp get in a bit of an argument during roll call on James’ first day as a Sergeant. **How do you think Shelp feels about James’ promotion? How would you feel if you were Charlie?

Page 56- When Shelp is giving him a hard time James remembers Sgt. Donoghue’s words, “Don’t let them get under your hide. If they see they can upset you, they will never leave you alone.” **Do you think that this is good advice? Do you think it is easy or difficult to follow? Have you ever been in a situation where you were challenged? How did you handle it? Were you successful?

Page 58/59- James is concerned about the situation in his Company, so he asks Sgt. Donoghue for advice. He says, “Don’t worry about those people. They are not worth a bit of thought. Your real friends will always be there.” **Who do you think are James’ real friends? Who are your real friends? Do you think that they would stand by you if you were in trouble?

Page 60- James begins writing Osgood’s history in the journal. Osgood describes how he got to be a doctor. He was home-schooled by his mother and father. Osgood says that army doctors are not well trained and that the soldiers should stay away from them “at all costs.” **How does Osgood’s description of army doctors make you feel? How would you feel if you were a soldier who was injured and had to go to the doctor after hearing Osgood’s story?

Page 62- Sarah sends James a silver coin from her great-grandfather. He says he doesn’t believe in good-luck charms, but he keeps it so he won’t disappoint Sarah. **Do you believe in lucky charms? Do you have any lucky charms? Predict: Will the coin be good luck for James?

Page 63- Once again, James almost gets killed- this time by a load of ammunition. However, he survives another close call. **What do you think of this lucky break number three? Do you think it will be the last lucky break for James? Why/why not?
Page 64- Different people often have different views of people. The men in James’ company have two varying opinions and ideas about James. Some say that he is lucky, since he has had all of these lucky breaks, and others (Charlie Shelp) think that he is unlucky because all of these close calls are happening to him. **Which view of James do you agree with? Why?

Page 68- It seems that the only major fights happening in G Company are happening over piddling insignificant things. Men in the same troop are arguing and fighting against each other. **What are the men fighting about on March 23? Do you think that is a subject worth arguing about? Would you want to hold the minie ball? Do you think it is a lucky charm or a bad omen? Why?

Page 69- James is upset because Sarah has not written in a long time. **How would you feel if a friend never replied to a letter you wrote? Why do you think that Sarah hasn’t written? Has she forgotten him?

Page 70- James talks with Pete McQuade, who is extremely worried about the unknown future of the G Company. James tries to assure him that there is nothing to worry about. He gives Pete Sarah's lucky coin. **Do you think that was a smart thing to do? What do you think is going to happen in the near future to G Company? How would Sarah feel if she found out that James gave her great-grandfather’s coin away? How would you feel if your friend gave something special of yours away?

Page 72- James discusses how he joined the army. **Are you surprised that he lied about his age? Would you have done the same thing? Do you think that this type of lying is okay, or is it still wrong? If you think it is okay, why do you think so?

Page 74- In a card game, Shelp is called a cheater, and James sticks up for him and says that he has never know Shelp to cheat, and Shelp gets very angry and storms out of the room. **Why do you think Shelp is angry that James is defending him? Would you feel that way, too? Why or why not?

Page 75- James decides to get his picture taken so he and Sarah can trade pictures of each other. **How much did James’ picture cost him? Who took it? Do you think that trading pictures is a good idea for James and Sarah? Why or why not?

Page 78- James runs across Charlie Shelp straggling behind with a band of soldiers in another camp. He orders Charlie to go back to camp, but Charlie has an attitude and refuses to listen. **What does James do in reaction to Shelp’s disobedience? How would you have handled the situation?

Page 80- Charlie Shelp once again gets out of line, and challenges James’ command. When James confronts Shelp, he says, “We will see who gets back, Sgt.” Now James is
worrying not only about the enemy, but also “one who is marching along with me, as well.” **Why is James worried about someone in his own Company? Predict what you think will happen between James and Charlie Shelp.

Page 81- In the middle of a siege, Johnny is still very calm. When James comments on this, Johnny replies, “I will either survive a fight or not and it isn’t in my hands, any-way. He knows what will happen to me, and that is good enough for me.” **Who is Johnny talking about? Why is he so calm? Do you agree with Johnny’s reasoning? Why or why not?

Page 82- The march is on, and James and his men are embarking on their journey into battle. They use the sound of the bugle as their signal to march. **What are some audible sounds that you use to signal that it is time to do something?

Page 83/85- James and his company are hiding in a wood called the “Old Wilderness. **By reading the description, and looking at the picture on page 85, do you think that “Old Wilderness” is a good name for the woods? Why or why not? What does wilderness mean? Use your dictionary if you do not know.

Page 85- In the middle of a battle, members of James’ troop begin making plans for dinner! **Do you think that you would be able to concentrate on making dinner plans in the middle of a battle? What would you be thinking about?

Page 88- James discusses the two types of charges that are used in battle. **Describe the two charge types. Which one do you think would be most effective? Why?

Page 91- Hardtack is a staple food of army men. James compares the taste of hardtack to chalk. **Would you want to taste hardtack? What foods do you have to eat sometimes that you don’t like? What can you compare the taste to?

Page 93- After the battle, both the Union and Confederate sides declare a truce long enough to come out and collect their dead and wounded soldiers. **Do you think that it is odd that they do this? Why? Why do you think that this is such an important task?

Page 94- James decides to send all of his money to Sarah for safekeeping. **Do you think that this is a smart/safe idea? Why or why not?

Page 96 to 103- James gets separated from his troop after an explosion knocks him unconscious. **Describe what happened to James. How did he get knocked out?

Page 105- After battle, most of James’ troops went out to hunt for their wounded/missing soldiers, but James stayed back. **Why didn’t James go with the rest of his troop to look for the missing soldiers? Was this a smart idea? Why or why not?

Page 106- After the battle, James gets lost and goes looking for his company. Unfortunately, he finds Willie Dodd and Spirit dead. Willie was carrying the Lucky
Minie when he died. **How do you feel about the lucky Minie? Do you still think that it is lucky? Or was this just a fluke accident?

Page 111- James is alone in the wilderness starving and looking for any kind of food. He sees some crawling things (probably bugs, worms, etc.) under a log. He is tempted to eat them, but decided against it. **Would you have eaten the crawlies? What is you were starving and hadn’t eaten in days?

Page 114- James has come across a shack in a clearing, and discovers an old Negro woman living there. **How did James get the woman’s attention? What did he offer her in exchange for help?

Page 115- The Negro woman does not speak the same language as James, but they use other methods of communicating to help them understand each other. **What things do they do to communicate? Have you ever been in a situation where you weren’t sure of what someone was trying to tell you? How did you manage the situation? Did it work?

Page 118- Sally sings James to sleep in the cabin. He says it makes him feel soothed, and safe. **Did your parents ever sing you to sleep when you were young? Do you remember how it felt? Get in pairs and practice singing soft soothing songs to each other. Pretend that you are trying to go to sleep. How did you feel as the singer? The listener?

Page 122- **How does Sally inform James of the presence of Reb soldiers? What is the plan to get James away? Where does he hide?

Page 124- Reb soldiers come and search Sally’s house during the day. They use a derogatory term for a black person. **Discuss the times, and talk about the prejudices and the feelings toward black people. Discuss how times have changed, and we no longer use those terms anymore.

Page 125- James dreams about marrying Sarah. **If you were Sarah, would you want to marry James? Why or why not? Do you predict that they will get married? Give reasons for your thoughts.

Page 128- Sally finally reveals her plan to James. **Who is Davie? What is the plan? Do you think it will work? What preparations would they need to take to get ready? Where will they go? Do you think that it is a good idea for all of them to travel at once?

Page 128- James needs a disguise for travel, so Davie covers him in mud. **Is that a good disguise? Why or why not?

Page 133- As James and the group approach the Union camp. A guard change is taking place. **How does this help the travelers on their journey? Is this another lucky break for James?
Page 137- When James, Sally and the others find their way back to the Union troops, a private speaks disrespectfully of Sally and the others. James says to him, “These are my friends, Pte., and they saved my life. You will treat them with respect, do you hear?” **How did Sally and Davie help James? How did James help them? Was James being brave by sticking up for them?**

Page 137- James gets to drink army coffee at the camp, and says, “Just as thick and old as any I have ever had – and just as delicious.” **Think back to the beginning of the book. Did he think army coffee was good then? What do you think changed his mind?**

Page 140- Sally is lecturing a soldier about leaving his clothes all over his tent! **Does this remind you of your parents? What other things do they lecture you for? Do you deserve lectures sometimes?**

Page 141- Davie and his family had always thought about running to the North, but Sally had always said to “wait for the right time.” **Why was the time right when Pease showed up at Sally’s?**

Page 142- Sally tells Pease that she is proud to be in his journal because “…Your words must be strong to stop a musket ball like that.” **After reading what James has written, do you think that he does write strong words? Why or why not? Give reasons.**

Page 143- Pete McQuade gives James back his lucky coin from Sarah, saying, “I count myself lucky to have gotten out at all. A lot didn’t.” **Do you think that the coin was lucky for McQuade, or was it just life? Why do you think that way?**

Page 144- While at the Union camp, Pease is ordered to help with the ambulance team until they can locate and reunite him with his company. However, he decides to take matters into his own hands and leave. **How did James’ goals change over the course of the book? Why did he want to be out fighting, instead of unloading ambulances? Would you have done as he did and left without permission to find your company, or would you have stayed and followed the command?**

Page 146- James is reflecting on his life in the army. He says, “When I left Aunt and Uncle, I left nothing and headed toward nothing. Now I am heading toward people who count on me and need me, even if just a little. I will probably never be a very brave soldier, but I think I can do my job and do it in an honorable way. And after this war is over? Who knows?” **How has Pease’s life and attitude changed over the course of the book? What do you think caused him to change? How important is it to feel needed? How does being needed make you feel? If you don’t feel needed, how might you change that, as James did?**

Page 147- On the road to meet up with his company, James runs into a Captain, and explains that he is on his way to meet his troops in battle. The Captain looks at him like he is either lying or crazy. **Why would the Captain think James was either lying or crazy? Do you think he is? Why or why not?**
Page 147- When the Captain wishes James good luck, James replies, "Thank you sir, but I believe I have all the luck I need." **How does this compare to the James we saw at the beginning of the book? What changed? Why do you think James thinks differently now?

Page 149- Was your prediction right about James and Sarah?

Page 149- James became a staff artist for a newspaper. **Looking back at James' drawings, are you surprised that he became an artist? Why or why not?

Page 150- William Kittler had a BIG secret! HE was a SHE! **Were you surprised to find this out? Girls, would you have been willing to disguise yourself in order to fight for your country?

Page 151- James tried to find out what happened to Sally and her family after they moved north, but never got any new information. **What do you think happened to them?

Page 152- The final words in the back of James diary said, "Luck is measured by the friends you make and the people you love." **What does this mean? Do you agree? If this is true, do you think that you are lucky? Why or why not? Write your own definition of luck.
Discussion Questions for The Diary of Emma Simpson

Page 3- Emma writes, “As I write this, I wonder how I can remain so calm. Perhaps the full knowledge of what has happened to our family has not been wholly realized.” **Why do you think that she hasn’t realized the full effect of this horrible tragedy? Have you ever been in this kind of situation?

Page 4- Here Emma writes about her family’s Christmas traditions. **Does your family have any special holiday traditions? How would you feel if you had to change or live without those traditions?

Page 7- Emma compares herself and Rachel, saying that she is the quiet one, while Rachel is a chatterbox. **Are you more like Emma or Rachel? Why do you think that way?

Page 8- At the time she starts her diary, Emma is making her New Year’s resolutions. **What do you think of Emma’s New Year’s resolutions? Do you agree that those of the past years seem childish? What, if any, New Year’s resolutions have you made in the past? Have you kept them?

Page 9- Emma’s resolution for 1864 is that her mother can depend on her more. **Do you think that she will be able to keep it? Make a prediction: Do you think that 1864 will be a happier year for Emma? Why or why not? Give your reasoning.

Page 14- Emma is reading a book about another girl named Emma. The storybook Emma likes to “meddle” into other people’s business. **Do you think that you are a meddler, or do you keep to yourself? Why do you think you are this way?

Page 16- Emma talks about reading as a means to “escape” her life. **Do you use reading as an escape sometimes? If so, what kinds of books do you like to read best? If you don’t read, then what do you do when you need to escape from your problems for a while? Do you think that people need a way to leave their cares behind? Why or why not?

Page 20/21- Here Emma writes about her self-concept, her feelings about herself. She says “…it is better to write in my diary – where no one will ever see it – than speak to anyone about such foolishness.” **Why wouldn’t Emma want to talk to anyone about what she is writing? What is your self-concept about yourself?

Page 21- Emma writes, “I never realized how happy I was until this war besieged our land.” **What do you think this means? Have you ever heard the quote, “You never know what you’ve got until it’s gone”? How does this quote from Emma compare?

Page 27- Emma shares the events of her first meeting with Tally. Unfortunately, he leaves to go off to the war right after they meet. **Predict what you think will happen to
Tally. Do you think that anything will happen between him and Emma? What clues, if any, did you use to make that prediction?

Page 31- **If you were Emma, in the situation with no one to look after you, and a sick mother, what would you do? How would you feel? How would you feel if you had an Aunt Caroline come to help you?

Page 32- Emma makes the title statement, “When will this cruel war be over?” **Why do you think that the author chose this particular quote as the title? Do you think that it is appropriate?

Page 32- Cousin Rachel is worried about how many valentine cards she received. **What do you think about her attitude in light of her situation? Would that be something that you would be worried about? Why/why not?

Page 33- “There are many reports of smallpox in the area.” **Do you think that this short entry is a foreshadowing of what is to come in the book? Predict what will happen.

Page 37- After receiving a letter from Tally, Emma writes, “I hope it is not childish to think of my own feelings when the war is being waged about such grave issues- but I cannot help that I simply want Tally to return safely.” **Do you think Emma’s wishes are childish? Why or why not? Have you ever felt selfish wishing for something for yourself in the face of bigger concerns? Do you think that it is common for people to have these feelings? Explain.

Page 38- Tally writes to Emma and tells of the hardships of war, and how many soldiers are leaving, or deserting. **Would you stay on as a soldier in these conditions, or would you try to desert, too? Why or why not?

Page 39- Tally sent Emma a ring. **Predict what you think will happen between them now. You may have to revise your earlier prediction.

Page 40- **Think for a minute about your daily life. How would your life be different if there were no men/boys around? What things would change?

Page 41- In his letter, Emma’s father says that Negroes are better off in slavery in the south than free with the Yankees. **Do you agree? How have things changed for black people since Emma’s time? Do you think they have changed for the better? Why? Also, why do you think that so many of the slaves stayed on the plantations?

Page 45- Emma describes Cousin Rachel’s elaborate boarding school. **How is that kind of school different for your school today? Which of those elements would you like to have in our school? Which element are you glad we don’t have? Why?

Page 48- “Mother died today.” **Why do you think that Emma wrote such a short entry on this day?
Page 51- Emma feels like she is being selfish by staying locked in her room. **Do you think that she is being selfish? Why or why not? How would you react in her situation?

Page 53- “A rose garden helped remind us that nothing beautiful in life comes without thorns.” **What do you think Emma’s mother meant by this saying? Do you think that it is true? Why or why not?

Page 55- Father says that his duty is with his men, and does not return home after Emma’s mother’s death. **Do you think that he is being selfish? Why or why not? If you were Emma’s father, what would you do?

Page 55- Emma hears the Negroes singing their beautiful songs. **Why do you think that they can continue singing, even in the midst of these troubled times?

Page 57- Emma makes the observation that “no one dresses prettily anymore.” **Why don’t they dress well? How is this simple observation a reflection on what life is like during this time?

Page 62- Emma’s neighbors, the Broyles brothers, return home seriously injured, and it is their sisters’ responsibility to take care of them. **How would you react and feel if you had to take care of a sibling who was seriously hurt? Would you mind tending to them?

Page 65- Things are not going well for Cousin Rachel. In addition to her misery, she has fallen off of her horse. **Do you feel sorry for her? Why or why not?

Page 67- Emma talks about rumors that the Negroes may leave. **What effect will this have on the plantation? How would Emma and her family survive?

Page 67- “My watch is broken.” **Why do you think that this small detail is important to Emma?

Page 72- Another soldier boy (Tom Broyles) has died. **How is Emma coping with the situation? How would this added death affect you? Would you still be able to keep faith, like Emma is trying to?

Page 72- Emma says, “They still appear to me to be cheerful, loyal and well-behaved...I wonder what goes on behind their masks.” **What does Emma mean by “masks”? What do you think that the Negroes are truly thinking? What clues did you use to figure it out?

Page 74- Dr. Garlington thinks, “They are simply biding their time, waiting for the Yankees to free them.” **Do you think that is true? Why or why not?

Page 74- After one dinner Emma writes, “It is impossible to know if the Negroes understand what is taking place -- they come and go as usual, serving dinner while everyone talks as if they were tables and chairs.” **Do you think that the slaves
understood the war and the conversations going on around them? What events later in the book show that they did? What does this comment say about how some Southerners treated their slaves? What does it say about Emma’s awareness of slaves as actual people?

Page 74- Emma spends a lot of time in the garden. **Why do you think she enjoys spending so much time there? Do you think she goes there to remember her mother? Do you have a special place that reminds you of a special time in your life, or a loved one? What makes it so special?

Page 75- Emma is now reading the novel, Jane Eyre. This is a real novel, written by an English writer named Charlotte Bronte. The word Eyre means “journey.” **Do you think that the author chose this novel on purpose because of its title? Do you think that Emma is on a journey? What kind of journey is Emma on?

Page 77- Emma makes the comment, “So much of what I am comes from Mother.” **Are you much like your parents? In what ways are you similar to your parents? In what ways are you different?

Page 77- Emma states that she is trying to spend less time reading in her room because her reading worries Aunt Caroline. **Why does Emma’s reading worry Aunt Caroline? Do you think that is a silly thing for Aunt Caroline to be worried about? Why or why not?

Page 79- In her book, Jane Eyre, Jane says, “Even for me life had its gleams of sunshine.” **What does this mean? What are the gleams of sunshine in Emma’s life? What are some special small things that you do for yourself to make you happy?

Page 81- Cousin Rachel dropped her scissors, and they stuck in the floor, which is a sign that visitors are coming. **Predict what you think will happen. Will visitors come? Is that just a silly superstition? Do you or your family believe in any particular superstitions (for example, throw spilled salt over your shoulder, walking under a ladder, or a broken mirror means 7 years bad luck)?

Page 82- Emma thinks that Rachel is hiding something about her past, because of her curious speech. **Speculate about what could have happened to make Cousin Rachel so hateful towards men, and against marriage.

Page 84- **Read the quote from Jane Eyre. What does this mean when it says that “doing one’s best doesn’t always answer?”

Page 85- Emma says, “The war is at our door.” **What does she mean by that? How would you feel if that happened to you? What do you think will happen next?

Page 86- **Do you think that the Yankees and Negroes acted appropriately to the entrance of the Yankees to the South? Why do you feel that way? How could things have been treated differently in a better manner?
Page 87- The quote from *Jane Eyre* talks about the "Jane of yesterday." **How has Emma changed from the "Emma of yesterday?" What has brought about these changes? Do you think that Emma is a better or worse person after these changes? Why?

Page 89- The Yankees have come in and taken all of Emma’s family’s food. **How will they survive without food? Predict what you think will happen.

Page 92- With the Yankees moving in, the family had to move all of their things upstairs. In the process, they hid all of their possessions. **If you had to hide your valuables, where would you hide them?

Page 93- Emma has finally finished *Jane Eyre*, and says that it left her “breathless and thirsting for more.” She has set a goal to emulate Jane in her concern and integrity. **Based on what you have read/heard about *Jane Eyre*, do you think that you would enjoy reading it? Why or why not? What parts appeal to you? Offend you?

Page 95- It is Emma’s first birthday without her mother, and she says that she is trying not to feel blue. **Would there be any gift that you could receive that would make you feel better in this circumstance? What would it be, and why is it so special to you?

Page 97- Emma’s life seems to be not very good at this point. However, she points out that they are quite lucky in having the troops headquartered in their house. **How are they lucky? What things could be worse if the troops were not there?

Page 98- Emma seems to get excited whenever she receives a letter from Tally. **Do you get excited about getting mail? What makes it so thrilling?

Page 98- In his letter, Tally describes all of the horrific events that are taking place right before his eyes. **How are Tally’s letters different than the letters that Emma gets from her father (pages 41 and 54)? Why do you think they are so different? Whose letters do you believe? Why?

Page 99- Tally writes of a man who was shot to death for trying to desert the army to go back and take care of his family. **Do you think that execution is a good punishment for those who are just trying to take care of their own families? What do you think, if any, would be a better disciplinary action?

Page 100- Cousin Rachel is getting bolder and has issued an ultimatum to Colonel Davenport. She says that she will not come in through the front door if he continues to hang the Union flag. **Do you think that Rachel is brave for doing this? Why or why not? Would you have been willing to do it? Do you think that having the Union flag hung in front of the door is a big deal? Why or why not?
Mr. Garlington continues to have faith in the Confederate army, but Emma is having doubts about their success. **Have you seen any evidence in our reading that has pointed to good news for the South? Where? (Give page numbers, if possible)

Emma takes the time to help out a Yankee who has been wounded and left behind by his fellow soldiers. **Why do you think that Emma took the time to help her "enemy"? Would you have done the same thing? What does that tell us about Emma as a person? Would you like to have Emma as a friend? Why or why not?

The Yankees hung Mrs. Canning’s son because he wouldn’t give any information about the Confederate troops. Later, they laughed about it, like it was a joke. **Has someone ever played a joke on you that you didn’t think was funny? How did it make you feel? How do you think Mrs. Canning and the neighbors feel about the Yankees’ “joke”?

Emma says that her family has been spared from the worse types of harassment from the Union soldiers. **Why do you think that they have been treated better than most of the other Southerners?

Mrs. Broyles spent an entire morning searching for a hair comb. **Why do you think that it was so important to find it that she wasted an entire morning? Do you think that she was searching for even the smallest reminder of the way things were before the war?

Once again, the scarlet fever epidemic has hit close to Emma’s home, and once again, Aunt Caroline is afraid the baby Elizabeth will catch it. **Predict whether or not you think Elizabeth will catch it.

Mr. Garlington’s Negroes have turned on him and hanged him. He was always atrociously mean to them. **Do you think that they were justified in how they treated him? Do you think that he deserved what he got? Why or why not?

Emma writes, “…they are one way with us, and another with their own color.” **Do you know people who act differently when they are around different groups of people? How does that make you feel towards them?

Emma says, “Whenever I saw Mr. Garlington, I had the eerie feeling that there was death shining in his eyes.” **What do you think that means? What impressions did you get when Emma wrote about him in her diary?

Emma is losing hope, but she tries to think of happy thoughts, such as Tally and father, and how her mother would want her to act. **What things do you think of that give you hope and strength when you are sad or upset?
Page 113- Emma calls Colonel Davenport's presence a "blessing". **How is it a blessing? Do you agree? Have you ever heard of a "blessing in disguise"? Do you think that this is one of those?

Page 114- Emma is talking and wondering about marrying Tally. **Revisit your earlier prediction, and see if you were right about Tally and Emma becoming a couple. However, it is not over yet. Predict whether or not you think that Tally will return safely, and he and Emma will actually get married.

Page 114- Emma says that the little things that were so important to her before don't seem so important now. **What things, if any, in your life don't seem as important after reading about Emma and her struggles in this wartime?

Page 117- Emma says, "They (Negroes) seemed so content before this all began that I am unsure what all the fury is about." **Do you think that the Negroes were really content? If not, why did Emma think that they were? Also, what did the slaves' contentedness depend on?

Page 119- Colonel Davenport and his troops have quickly left the house. **Why do you think they left? What clues in the reading made you think that way? Predict what will happen to Emma and her family now.

Page 122- All of the slaves have deserted the Simpson family, except for Iris and Amos. **Why do you think that they have stayed? Would you have stayed if you were them? Why or why not?

Page 122- Emma feels like "a prisoner in her own home." **Does this remind you of being grounded? Have you ever felt like you were trapped in your own house, too? When did you feel that way? How did you resolve it?

Page 123- Emma says, "I am no longer young." **What does she mean by this? Less than a year has passed. In what ways is Emma "old". She also says, "I know that I have changed forever, and there is no going back." What does she mean by this? How do these two statements make you feel?

Page 124- Rachel says that if she had a gun, she would shoot the Yankees. **Is that a good solution? Why or why not? How would that help/hinder the situation?

Page 128- Baby Elizabeth has died. **Was your prediction correct?

Page 128- Emma's role in her family has changed dramatically. When her mother died, her aunt had to be the adult and take care of her, but now that her cousin has died, Emma must become an adult figure and help take care of her aunt. **Have you ever been in a situation where you had adult responsibilities? What happened? What did you do?
Page 129- Emma says, “There is a black hole where my heart previously beat.” A black hole is an entity in space from which NO light can escape. **How does this compare with Emma’s heart? What happened to it?

Page 129- Wondering about her father and Tally, Emma writes, “Is anything worth dying for? Is this awful waste- this painful sacrifice- justified….” **How would you answer Emma’s questions? How do you think a Union Soldier would answer them? How about a Confederate soldier?

Page 131-Rachel suffered a nervous breakdown. **What signs did we see in our reading that pointed to her condition?

Page 132- Emma and Tally were married in 1865. **Was your prediction correct? What evidence made you think that this would happen?

Page 133- Mr. Garlington’s slaves murdered him, yet some of the Simpson’s slaves stayed loyal to the end. **Why did the slaves treat Mr. Garlington and the Simpsons so differently? How were the slaves treated by their masters? What were some of the similarities in the ways the slaves were treated? What were the differences?
Discussion Questions for Clotee, A Slave Girl

Page 3- Right away we learn Clotee’s big secret. **What is Clotee’s secret? How did she learn to read and write?

Page 4- Clotee says, “Wonder why the white folks is so determined to keep us from learning. What are they scared of?” **What do you think that white folks are scared of?

Page 5- Clotee describes what she sees in her mind when she writes the word H-O-M-E. **What do you see when you imagine the word home? How does your vision differ from Clotee’s?

Page 5- In reference to Mas’ Henley, Clotee says, “But I done learned that he cain’t tell me what to think – and feel – and know. He look at me every day but he cain’t see what’s in my head. He cain’t own what’s inside me. Nobody can.” **Is this true? What is it that makes your inner self so special?

Page 6- Clotee describes the field hands’ job, and the housemaids’ job. **Which job would you rather have? Why? What are the pros and cons of each job?

Page 8- Clotee describes all the people on the Plantation, but says, “There’s nobody I trust enough to tell (my secret to).” **Why shouldn’t Clotee tell her secret to just anyone? Who is someone that you can tell your deepest secrets to?

Page 8- Clotee describes her two F-R-I-E-N-D-S, Missy and Wook. **Who are your closest friends? Do you ever get jealous of your friends? When? Is that normal?

Page 11- Clotee has a dream about her mother where she tries to tell her secret. Unfortunately, she wakes up to find that her mother is still dead, and she still can’t tell anyone her secret. **How do you feel when you wake up and find out that a great dream hadn’t come true?

Page 13- At the Easter meeting, Rufus told the bible story about Daniel in the lions’ den. In the end he said that everyone should be brave because God will deliver us from all harm. Clotee is worried about the lions. **Was Rufus really talking about the lions? What do you think he was really talking about?

Page 14- When Clotee writes the word “freedom”, she doesn’t picture anything. It has no meaning. **Why can’t she picture freedom? What does freedom mean to you? How did you get your picture of freedom? How would you explain it to Clotee?


Page 15- Miz Lilly gives food and trinkets to slaves who are willing to tattle on each other for doing things. **Do you think it would be worth tattling for a little thing like a handkerchief or an empty glass bottle?
Page 16- Clotee describes Spicy’s eyes as “big pools of sorryness.” **What do you think has happened to Spicy to make her so sad and quiet and sorry-looking? What do you think she did before coming to Belmont Plantation?

Page 17- in the background information, Clotee says that Mas’ Henley “married the money and not Miz Lilly.” **What does this mean? Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Why? Would you marry for money?

Page 19- Clotee says, “If mean were a tree, it would grow tall here at Belmont.” **What does this mean? What examples have you read so far that support Clotee’s statement?

Page 20- Here we see Clotee in action, learning during one of William’s lessons. **Do you think Clotee is smart? Why or why not?

Page 22- Today is Clotee’s birthday, and we see how slaves celebrated their special day. **How is a slave’s birthday different from how you celebrate you’re your birthday? Do you think that Clotee had a good birthday? Why do you think that?

Page 22- Here we get a closer look at Spicy, and how she reacts to actions and people. **Can you tell what Spicy is most afraid of? Review your prediction: Why do you think Spicy is so sad/scared?

Page 23- Clotee says, “Hince could pass for anybody’s ordinary white boy - a member of the Big House family. She also says, “It bothers him that he looks white, but he is black.” **What do you think about the rumor that Mas’ Henley is Hince’s father? What would that mean for Hince? Are you surprised that Hince is a slave even though he looks white? Why do you think that bothers him? Have you ever been in a situation where you felt different than other people? When?

Page 26- Clotee talks about “jumping the broom.” **What is jumping the broom? Does it seem like a silly thing to do? Do you think it is fair that slaves couldn’t have legally recognized marriages? Why don’t white people allow it?

Page 27- Clotee and Spicy talk and assure each other that neither of them is a tattler. Because of this, Clotee is tempted to tell Spicy her secret. **Do you predict that Clotee will tell Spicy her secret? Would that be a smart thing to do? Why do you think that?

Page 28- Miz Lilly is the one who teaches William his lessons, and she is not the most patient of people. **Would you want Miz Lilly as a teacher? Why or why not?

Page 30- A suspicious-looking white man with one eye has been helping slaves get away. **Predict who this man is. How many slaves will he help? What effect will escaping slaves have on Belmont Plantation?

Page 33- Clotee and Spicy have been bonding and making friends, but Missy doesn’t care for Spicy. Clotee says, “The more I learn about Spicy, the more I like her, but the more I
hurt deep down for her, too.” **What is your opinion of Spicy? Why doesn’t Missy like her? Why does Clotee hurt for her? Do you think Clotee will tell her secret?

Page 34- Cook pulled a no-no, and ignored Miz Lilly about the dinner menu. She says that she knows just who she cooks for, and it ain’t Miss Lilly. **Do you think it is smart to ignore Miz Lilly and only listen to Mas’ Henley? What problems could occur due to that?

Page 36- Wook “jumped the broom” with Lee, a slave twice her age. She is only 17. **Do you think that you’d be ready to jump the broom if you were Wook? Why did she do it? How would you feel about marrying someone twice your age?

Page 39- A seed has been planted about Spicy and Hince getting together, and Missy is very jealous. Clotee seems to like the idea, though. **What do you think about the idea of Spicy and Hince becoming a couple? Do you think it is a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

Page 39- We get a small glimpse of Clotee’s self-concept, how she feels about herself. She says, “I’d just like to be a little bit pretty.” **What does this statement tell us about how Clotee sees herself? Does she have other reasons to feel good about herself other than her looks? How is your self-concept? So you feel good about yourself?

Page 41- According to slave law, any baby born to a slave becomes the property of the master. That means that Aggie and Rufus’ baby belongs to Mas’ Henley. **What do you think about that? Do you agree? Why isn’t that fair?

Page 42- Clotee hears the reason why Wook and Lee were married. She vows that Mas’ Henley will never make her get married just so he can have more slave babies. **What are some possible alternatives to getting married to another slave on the plantation? Do you think that she could just refuse to do it? What would the consequence be to not following orders?

Page 46/47- Clotee reveals what happened to Hince’s mother, who used to be a slave at Belmont. **What happened? What was the reason that Miz Lilly got rid of Ola? Was that a good reason?

Page 48- Clotee remembers her mother’s story, and what it was like when her mother was still alive and living on the plantation. After her mother was sold, Clotee only got to see her once or twice before she died. **What would be worse, seeing your mother only once in a very great while, or never seeing her? Why do you think that way?

Page 49- Clotee hears the slaves in the Quarters singing a spiritual song all through the night. **Why is this important? Predict the meaning that song may have on the future story of this book.
Page 51- Clotee is very resourceful, and looks up information in the almanac and the atlas. She discovers abolitionists, New York, Philadelphia, and the Underground Railroad. **What do you know about the Underground Railroad? What was it? Who ran it? What was the purpose? Who didn’t like it? What were some of the signals for it?**

Page 53- Clotee stole some ink from Mas’ Henley’s desk so she could write in her diary. **Is it wrong for her to steal in this case? Why do you think that way?**

Page 55- Clotee finally makes the connection that Rufus is not only talking about the people in the bible stories, he is talking about the problems and struggles that the slaves have in their everyday lives, too. **Did you make the connection between the bible stories and real life? Do you think that some of the same stories are applicable today? How? Can you relate any of these stories to your own life? Which ones, and how do they apply?**

Page 56- Clotee explains what life is like for slaves during the festivities of the Fourth of July holiday. **How are Clotee’s feelings about the holidays different from yours? Have you ever had to clean your house before holiday company came? Can you relate to how Clotee feels?**

Page 57- We get a glimpse of Spicy’s feelings for Hince. **Predict what you think will happen between Hince and Spicy. What clues has the author given us to support your predictions?**

Page 59- Clotee is talking about the way William and his cousins are acting. They are being wild and disrespectful. In response to this, Clotee says, “Nobody ‘specs better of ‘em, so they act that way.” **Do you think that is true? How do your parents and teachers expect you to act? What if they didn’t have any standards for you to follow? How would your behavior change?**

Page 61- William is upset because Uncle Heb will not allow him to ride Dancer alone. **Predict what you think will happen in this situation. Will William be smart and let things alone, or will he be foolish and try to ride Dancer by himself? What would you do in this situation?**

Page 64- Mas’ Henley and Miz Lilly are arguing over whether or not William will get a tutor so he can continue his lessons. **What will Clotee’s life be like if there are no more lessons? How would she continue to learn?**

Page 66- During a conversation between Miz Lilly and Clotee, Miz Lilly says, “Yes. You’re different than the others. I never know quite what’s goin’ on in that little head of yours. But it makes me wonder.” **What do you think Miz Lilly means by this? Do you think she knows Clotee’s secret? What will happen?**

Page 67- William ends up attempting to ride Dancer on his own. **Were your predictions correct?**
Page 68- After the terrible accident, William is left paralyzed and unable to walk. Clotee worries that she is being selfish because she wants him to live so Mas’ Henley won’t make her life miserable. **Do you think that Clotee is being selfish? Why or why not? How do you predict that life on Belmont Plantation will change after this accident? Write a ½ to one page journal about your thoughts.

Page 69- Mas’ Henley is so mad about William’s accident that he beats Uncle Heb until he dies. **How do you feel about this? Was the accident Uncle Heb’s fault? If not, who was to blame? How could Mas’ Henley have dealt with this in a better way?

Page 70- Rufus says, “Hate the sin and not the sinner.” **What does this mean? Do you think that it is easy to do this? Why would it be hard?

Page 74- In memory of Uncle Heb, Clotee and Spicy take a walk through the flower beds. Spicy finds a four-leaf clover that is supposed to bring good luck. Clotee says, “We could sure use some good luck ‘round this place.” **Do you think that this clover is a symbol of good things to come on the plantation? Why or why not?

Page 74- Miz Lilly promises Clotee that things will change, and she will take good care of her, as long as she doesn’t tell Mas’ Henley about their talk about William. Clotee says, “None of this makes me feel very good in the stomeck.” **Do you think Miz Lilly feels guilty for not listening to Clotee? How do you think things will change for Clotee? Do you think that Clotee should tell Mas’ Henley that she warned Miz Lilly? Why or why not?

Page 76/77- Mr. Harms, the tutor, has finally arrived at Belmont. Clotee gives a detailed description of his physical appearance, and how he finagled his way into staying on as William’s tutor. Clotee is happy because now that lessons are continuing, she can continue to learn her lessons. **What kind of tutor do you think Mr. Harms will be? Draw a picture of Mr. Harms based on Clotee’s description.

Page 78- TROUBLE! Mr. Harms sys that William doesn’t need a fanner during lessons! Luckily, William whines a lot, so Mr. Harms says Clotee can stay. **How does this show that even bad things can sometimes be good?

Page 79- Missy and Eva Mae are acting funny, and have sided with Miz Lilly. That means that Clotee has to be very careful, because they are surely looking for things to tell Miz Lilly about. Clotee says, “Now I know how Daniel must have felt in the lion’s den.” **What does this mean? What do you think will happen? Do you think that Missy and Eva Mae will find something to tattle on Clotee about?

Page 80- Clotee dreams about her mother and Mr. Harms. In her dream her mother smiles and says that everything will be all right. Rufus tells Clotee that God talks to people in dreams. **What do you think Clotee’s dream means?
Page 81- Clotee is learning new things about how to speak and write correctly. She still has trouble speaking all of the words correctly, for example, her -ing's. **Do you ever notice that you say words differently than how you spell them? Why do you think that is?

Page 83- Clotee makes the observation that Mr. Harms acts strange. HE never even looks at her, just ignores her like she isn’t there. **Do you think that is odd? Why or why not? If you do, why do you think he is acting that way?

Page 84- Clotee tells Aunt Tee her secret, and Aunt Tee is scared for Clotee. She says, “Don’t bring trouble to yo’ own front door. Don’t tell another living soul that you got this little piece of knowing. You hear me?” Clotee then vows not to tell anyone else her secret ever. **Were you surprised at Aunt Tee’s reaction? Why?

Page 85- Close call!! Clotee almost revealed her secret to William and Mr. Harms during lessons. **Do you think Mr. Harms knows her secret after that slip? Would you be suspicious of her? Do you foresee problems for Clotee in the future?

Page 88- Missy tries her best to get information out of Clotee by saying that friends share secrets, but Clotee doesn’t fall for it. **What do you think about Missy? Should Clotee tell her secret? How would you deal with Missy?

Page 91- Mr. Harms and Rufus were seen sneaking into the woods late at night together. **What do you think is going on? What will happen in upcoming events in the book?

Page 91- Clotee talks to Wook about how selfish and sneaky Missy is acting. Wook understands and her reply is, “If I got something, she wanted it, no matter how small.” **Do you know anyone who is selfish like that, always wanting what someone else has? Younger siblings, perhaps?

Page 93- Mas’ Henley is upset about Eva Mae’s cooking. Clotee thinks that he deserves what he’s getting. **Do you agree? Why or why not?

Page 94- Spicy shares a dear secret with Clotee – she has a bible! She tells Clotee all about it. This makes Clotee want to tell Spicy her secret, but she is still afraid. **Should Clotee tell Spicy her secret? What would you do? What would happen if Spicy turned out to be a tattletale?

Page 95- Mr. Harms has found Spicy’s bible, and threatens to tell Miz Lilly that someone can read. However, he then tells Clotee, “The view from my room is interesting.” **What does he mean by that?

Page 95- After going into Mr. Harms’ room, Clotee realizes that he must know her secret. Also, when she goes to move her diary, Mr. Harms had put a note on it that told her to be careful. **Why is Mr. Harms warning Clotee? Why doesn’t he tell Mas’ and Miz Henley? Could he be trying to blackmail Clotee?
Page 96- Clotee finally tells Spicy her secret, and together they go to Aunt Tee for help. **Do you think that was a smart move on Clotee’s part? Why or why not?

Page 97- Clotee is trying to figure out who Mr. Harms is, and how he can help the slaves. She says, “I got some ideas, but I dare not put voice to them yet.” **What ideas do you have about Mr. Harms?

Page 100- Clotee is now living out in the Quarters with Aunt Tee and Spicy. She says that the Quarters is her H-O-M-E. She says, “Home aine a place – it’s a feeling of being loved and wanted. Wherever Aunt Tee and Spicy are that’s home to me.” **Do you agree with Clotee’s definition of home? If not, what is your definition? What places make you feel HOME? Why?

Page 102- Mr. Harms told Miz Lilly about the found bible, but he doesn’t show her the Spicy’s real one. Clotee realizes that he is trying to help Spicy, and get on Miz Lilly’s good side. Also, he tricks Miz Lilly into letting Clotee help with William’s water treatments. **Why is Mr. Harms helping Clotee? What is his goal? Why is he there at Belmont Plantation?

Page 104/105- Hince brought back gifts for Clotee, Spicy, and Aunt Tee after his trip to the tack with Mas’ Henley. Missy was jealous that he didn’t bring her anything, so she told Miz Lily about Hince having money. Because of that, Hince got a whipping of ten licks. Missy got the handkerchief Miz Lilly had promised. Clotee wonders, “I wonder how Missy feels about herself, now? Was getting Hince a whipping worth that ugly handkerchief?” **How do you feel about what Missy did? Would you have done it? How do you think Missy feels?

Page 107- Miz Lilly gives Clotee a dress that her mother had made for Mistress’s daughter, Clarissa. At first Clotee is excited, but then stops and thinks that Miz Lilly is never nice just to be nice. Something must be going on. **Why do you think Miz Lilly gave Clotee the dress? Do you think that something sneaky is going on? Predict what you think will happen.

Page 109/110- Clotee explains that the word home means freedom when they sing at the arbor. In Rufus’s story, he says that they’re going to freedom soon. Clotee thinks that this means that someone is getting ready to run. **Do you think that Clotee is right? Who do you think will be running?

Page 111- Rufus, Aggie, Wook, and baby Noah ran away, and everything at Belmont is in an uproar. Mas’ Henley promises freedom to anyone who gives information about the escape, and who helped them. Clotee has to stop and think about things. She says, “This aine about no handkerchief. Mas’ Henley is promising freedom. If I told him everything I know about Mr. Harms and the one-eyed man, I could be free. Free. The idea is tempting.” **Do you think that Clotee should tell what she knows? Why or why not? Would you tell?
Page 112- Mas’ Henley and his posse tracked down and killed Rufus, and all the others drowned in the river. This crushed the slaves’ spirits about freedom. However, Clotee says that now they are free forever. **Do you think that slaves will never be free as long as they are alive? Do they all have to die before they find their freedom?

Page 116- Mas’ Henley has brought in a new overseer. His name is Briley Waith. Clotee says that Mas’ Henley “brought Waith here to be his eyes.” **What does this mean? What will Waith’s presence mean to the life of the slaves on Belmont Plantation?

Page 116- Once again Miz Lilly is trying to bribe Clotee for information, this time about Mr. Harms. Clotee agrees to bring her any information she finds out, but inside Clotee says, “I’d never tell you a thing, ‘specially not on an abolitionist.” **Predict what you think will happen with Mr. Harms.

Page 117- Clotee is confused, because Mr. Harms has stopped talking to her, and has gone back to ignoring her as if she wasn’t even in the room. **Why do you think that Mr. Harms is ignoring Clotee? Does he have a valid reason? Why or why not?

Page 118- At supper, Mr. Harms told the Henley’s about his uncles being abolitionists, and how he was ashamed of them because they supported the slaves. That seemed to relieve Mas’ Henley, but Miz Lilly didn’t buy it. **Why do you think that Miz Lilly is suspicious?

Page 119- The overseer’s house is done, and is in for the long winter’s stay at Belmont. Knowing that he is there makes a cold chill go up Clotee’s back. **What will the winter be like at Belmont Plantation? Will it be happy or miserable? Give reasons for your answer.

Page 120- Clotee has another dream. In it, she is so close to the abolitionists, but she never gets to them. **What do you think Clotee’s dream means?

Page 121- Samella, a barn cat, had kittens, and Clotee gave one to William. She was very surprised when he thanked her. **What changes have we seen in William? What do you think has caused these changes?

Page 124- Waith the overseer tries to get a hold of Spicy, but Clotee stands up and says that Mr. Harms has eyes for Spicy already. Clotee says that this is a good lie, because it helps Spicy. **Do you agree that this is a good lie? Is there really such a thing as a good lie? What lies are good? Which lies are bad?

Page 128- Clotee still doesn’t get a picture of freedom in her head when she writes it. She says, “Freedom is a hard word to understand.” **Do you agree that freedom is a hard word to understand? If it isn’t hard for you, then why would it be hard for Clotee?

Page 130- Mr. Harms is helping Clotee by leaving her Abolitionist magazines. In one copy, she reads about Sojourner Truth, a black abolitionist. Clotee says that she wants to
be like Sojourner Truth one day. **Sojourner Truth is like Clotee’s hero. Who is your hero? What do you like about that hero?

Page 131- William comments on Clotee’s use of proper grammar, and Clotee is nervous because both Miz Lilly and William have noticed her differences. She says, “Is my learning going to be my undoing?” **What does this mean? Do you think that just because someone talks differently, there must be something odd about him/her?

Page 132/133- Mas’ Henley sets up a race with Hince versus the Campbells. If Hince wins, Mas’ Henley gets the Campbells’ horse. If Hince loses, Mas’ Henley will give him to the Campbells. **Predict what the outcome of the race will be. Will Hince win or lose?

Page 134- Mas’ Henley is not going to give out travel passes to his slaves for the Christmas holidays. He decided this after suggestion from Waith. Henley says, “You’re a good man, Waith.” **Do you agree that Waith is a good man? What kind of Christmas will it be on Belmont Plantation? How would you feel if you couldn’t go visit your family on Christmas? Do you agree with Clotee that Waith is a perfect picture of the word M-E-A-N?

Page 136- William stood up on his own! Everyone praised and thanked Mr. Harms, but no one said anything to Clotee. However, she says, “Nobody knew what I’d done – but I knew and that made me feel well within myself.” **Does this make you happy? Have you ever done something that helped someone, but no one knew you did it? What did you do? How did you feel when you did it?

Page 139- The day before the big race, Clotee sees one of the Campbell’s men messing around at Big Can’s stall. **Do you foresee problems occurring in the race? What do you think will happen?

Page 140- Hince lost the race, and afterwards, several people were called to check and make sure that the horses weren’t tampered with before the race. None of them found anything wrong with Big Can. Clotee says, “Were they blind? Anybody could see it – who wanted to see it – that Can wasn’t acting hisself.” **What is the significance of this phrase? Why do you think that the people checking the horses didn’t see anything wrong with Can? How do you feel about everything that happened during the race?

Page 142- Hince tattled on Mr. Harms, and told Mas’ Henley that Mr. Harms helped the runaway slaves! **What do you think about that? Could you see it coming?

Page 143- Hince explained to the women that “I aine going to the Deep South with the Campbelles. Why should I care about a white man? It’s his life or mine.” Aunt Tee says that he is just scared. **Have you ever said or done something silly because you were scared?

Page 143- Aunt Tee also tells Hince, “Oh, Son, if you gets to freedom, don’t let it be on a river of innocent blood – or you’ll sour you’ heart and soul.” Clotee also tells Hince how