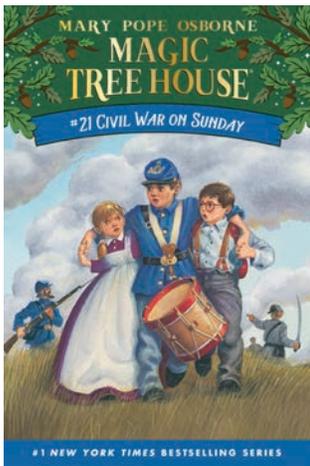


EDUCATORS' GUIDE

MAGIC TREE HOUSE®

Civil War on Sunday



ABOUT *Civil War on Sunday*

Jack and Annie are whisked back to the Civil War where they meet Clara Barton and save the life of their very own great-great-great-grandfather.

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CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

ACTIVITIES FOR *Civil War on Sunday*

Letter from a Drummer Boy

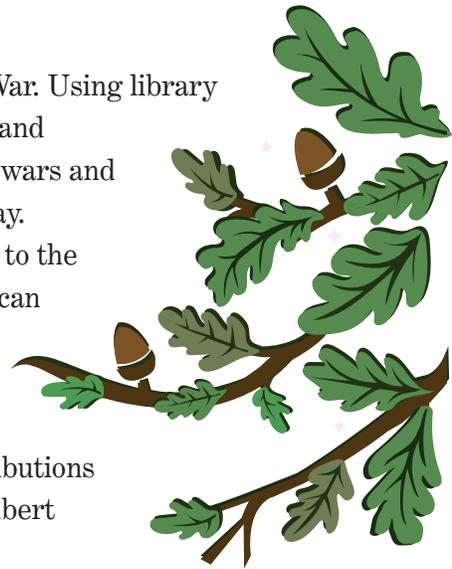
During the Civil War, the beat of the drummer boy's drum was used to give orders to soldiers and to help find one another on smoky battlefields. It told them when to eat, how to march, and how to fight. Have students imagine being a 15-year-old drummer boy, Union or Confederate, who's been wounded and brought to Clara Barton's field hospital to recover. Have them write letters to their parents in which they express their recollections and relationships of the battlefield. They may write of how their ideas and feelings about war have changed since becoming soldiers and their families what they miss about home and being with them. Finally, have them tell how they feel about going back to fight, what they hope will happen, and what they would like their families to know.

CURRICULUM: *History • Language Arts*

African American Patriots

Jack and Annie's short experience in the Civil War shows them that many African Americans-escaped slaves or freedmen-fought for the Union cause. A longer stay in our colonial era would have also revealed that 5,000 Black Patriots voluntarily fought and died for America's independence in the Revolutionary War.

Separate your students into two teams: Civil War and Revolutionary War. Using library and/or Internet resources, have students research the role, identities, and experiences of African American soldiers and patriots in each of these wars and prepare biographies of African American heroes for sharing and display. The Civil War team, aided by excerpts from the movie *Glory*, may look to the 54th regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and other African American Civil War units and heroes such as Robert Gould Shaw, William H. Carney and Robert Blake. The Revolutionary War team, aided by excerpts from historical fictions such as *War Comes to Willy Freeman* (James and Christopher Collier, 1983), may look to the contributions made by Black patriots such as Crispus Attucks, Prince Whipple, Lambert Latham, James Forten, Salem Poor and others.



CURRICULUM: *History • Art*

Courage of Compassion

More than 3,000 women served as nurses in army field hospitals during the Civil War, including Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, and Louisa May Alcott, author of the novel *Little Women*. Alcott chronicled her experiences as a nurse during the Civil War in her book *Hospital Sketches*, written in the form of letters to her family, vividly describing the horrors, heartbreak, and frustrations of caring for the war's wounded in a hospital in Washington, D.C.

Ask your students to define the kind of “courage” typically associated with war. Then ask them to describe “the courage of compassion,” distinguishing the courage required on the battlefield from that required of a wartime nurse. Discuss examples of Jack and Annie’s courage in Clara Barton’s field hospital outside of Richmond.

CURRICULUM: *History • Literature*

One War, Two Generals

The course of the Civil War was determined, to some degree, by the men in charge of the men leading the Union and Confederate forces. Using library and/or Internet resources, have students research the Civil War generals, Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. After discussing their individual personalities, perspectives, skills, and experiences, have students highlight major differences and similarities between these leaders using a Venn Diagram.

CURRICULUM: *History • Graphing*

Teaching ideas by Rosemary B. Stimola, Ph.D., former professor of children’s literature at City University of New York.