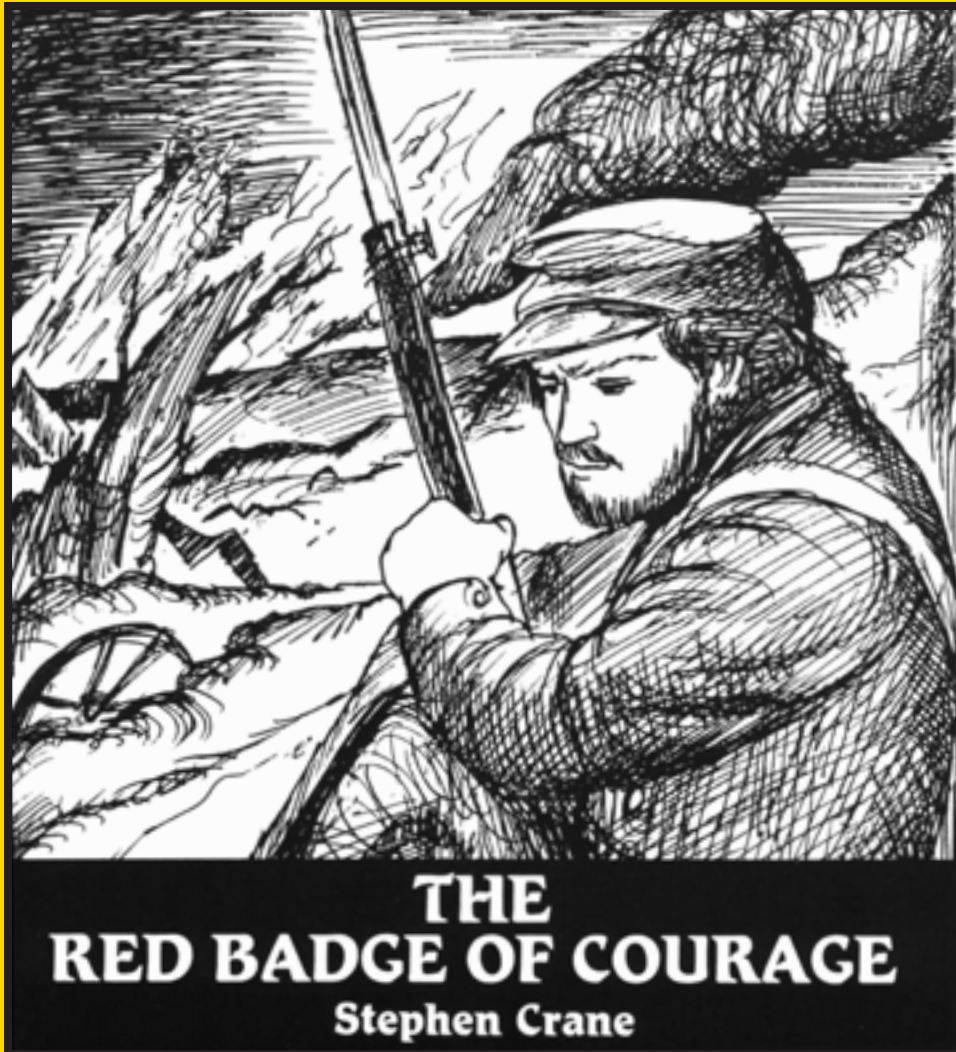


Novel•Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *The Red Badge of Courage* consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its own reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

terrible tragedy to the still-young country and, in many respects, the repercussions can still be felt today.

Battle of Chancellorsville: May 1 – 4, 1863

Known as “Lee’s Masterpiece,” this campaign is studied by military scholars as the almost perfect battle. General Lee split his forces and attacked the Union Army under the command of General Hooker, on two fronts. It has been estimated that the Union army suffered approximately 17,000 losses; the Confederate army suffered approximately 12,800 casualties.

About the Author: Stephen Crane

During his short lifetime of twenty-nine years, Stephen Crane achieved fame and notoriety as a writer. Although praised for the realism of his work, he was also criticized for its sordid detail. Ironically, *The Red Badge of Courage*, published in 1895, was written in ten successive nights entirely from instinct by Crane who, in his early twenties, had never seen a war. Years later, after reporting on war in Greece and Cuba, he looked back upon his earlier work and in hindsight proclaimed it an accurate account of a young person in battle. Although the great battle described in the novel is drawn from actual accounts of the fighting at Chancellorsville, Virginia, the name of that battle is never mentioned in the book.

CHAPTERS 1, 2

Vocabulary: The following military terms refer to rank order in the army. Use a dictionary, if necessary, to help you number these titles in proper rank order (with 8 being the highest rank and 1 being the lowest).

| | |
|--|------------|
| | colonel |
| | lieutenant |
| | corporal |
| | general |
| | private |
| | sergeant |
| | major |
| | captain |

The following terms refer to fighting units. Use a dictionary to help you number these units from the smallest to the largest (with 4 being the largest and 1 being the smallest).

| | |
|--|-----------|
| | battalion |
| | brigade |
| | company |
| | regiment |

Questions:

1. What motivated Henry to enlist in the army?
2. Why was Henry annoyed by his mother's parting words?
3. What were Henry's first clues that war might not live up to his dreams?
4. What issue troubled Henry most as he faced imminent battle?
5. Why didn't Henry confide his insecurities to any of the other soldiers?
6. What evidence showed that the soldiers had only sketchy news about the war?
7. How was the horseman's request for a box of cigars from the colonel like the socks and sweaters that Henry's mother had sent with him?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think Henry's motivations for going to war were valid?
2. Why do you think the author chose not to refer to specific battles or to the issues around which the war was being fought?