

TO: Parents of Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

FROM: Lorrie Steele

RE: SUMMER READING PACKET FOR RISING 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

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As a parent, I feel strongly that you and your children should enjoy the summer. After managing hectic family schedules from August through May, the next ten weeks provide a much-needed chance to rest and recharge. As a teacher, however, I need the students to keep their brains active to some degree and occasionally revisit those skills on which their success in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be based. Therefore, the rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders will need to do the following:

- All rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders are required to read *Behind Rebel Lines* by Seymour Reit. Upon entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in August, they will complete several activities based on this novel. It would be beneficial for each student to have a copy when school starts. There will also be a test shortly after school begins. Attached you will find guided reading questions to go with the book—**completing the questions is not mandatory**. I am providing these as a guide for those that want to make sure the book is thoroughly read. Extra credit will be awarded for those that complete the packet.
- In addition to the required summer reading, all students should read for a minimum of 30 minutes every day. While choosing material from a variety of genres would be nice, what is most important is that children enjoy what they are reading. Without engagement, the true benefits of reading will not be realized. Please keep the following in mind:
  - Provide access to a variety of reading materials. Magazines, graphic novels, non-fiction texts, and anthologies of poetry, short stories, and/or biographies are fine.
  - Read aloud to your child for the purpose of modeling fluent reading and monitoring his/her comprehension by talking about what you read.
  - Realize that independent, sustained, silent reading **directly correlates** to better reading comprehension, a broader vocabulary, and higher standardized test scores.
- In addition for focusing on reading, other worthwhile skills that you may want to have your children practice are:
  - Keyboarding
  - Knowledge of Microsoft Word as well as Google Docs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Have a wonderful summer!

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The main character of Behind Rebel Lines takes on many aliases throughout the novel. In disguise, Emma portrays both men and women. This chart will assist you in identifying Emma's characters throughout the novel.



Emma Edmonds

Private Franklin Thompson

Cuff

Bridget O'Shea

Slave Woman

Mr. Mayberry

Character Description: Writing down a short description of each character will help keep them fresh in your mind.

Franklin Thompson \_\_\_\_\_

Cuff \_\_\_\_\_

Bridget O'Shea \_\_\_\_\_

Slave Woman \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Mayberry \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a map of major Civil War Battles and the black dots indicate the places listed below. List what happened to Emma at each location.

1. Saint John, Canada: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Flint, Michigan: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Washington, D.C.: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Richmond, Virginia: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Louisville, Kentucky: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Vicksburg, Mississippi: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Cairo, Illinois: \_\_\_\_\_
8. La Porte, Texas: \_\_\_\_\_



## Notes on *Behind Rebel Lines*

### Chapter 1

- The novel's protagonist is named \_\_\_\_\_, a native Canadian woman who moved to the United States when she was \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
- She ran away after her \_\_\_\_\_ died and because her \_\_\_\_\_ treated her even more poorly than before since she was not a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Emma enlists in the \_\_\_\_\_ army disguised as a man named \_\_\_\_\_.
- She hopes to work in the army as a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Chapter 2

- Though she is listed as noncombatant, Emma goes through \_\_\_\_\_ training.
- Begins her job as a nurse under head surgeon named \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapter 3

- She learns of the death of her good friend Lieutenant \_\_\_\_\_ during the last battle.
- Heartbroken over the loss, she decides to take even more of a risk for the war.

### Chapter 4

- Emma tells \_\_\_\_\_ about her plans to become a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mrs. Butler tries to \_\_\_\_\_ but eventually supports her in spite of the danger.
- Emma comes up with the plan to disguise herself as a \_\_\_\_\_ to get behind the enemy lines.

## Chapter 5

- Emma uses \_\_\_\_\_ to darken her skin and a \_\_\_\_\_ from a minstrel show to disguise her hair and becomes the character of “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- Emma’s \_\_\_\_\_, or administrative assistant, sneaks her across the lines when it’s \_\_\_\_\_ so that she can sneak toward the \_\_\_\_\_ camp.

## Chapter 6

- “Cuff” joins up with a group of black men headed toward the Confederate Camp and is assigned the difficult task of filling a \_\_\_\_\_ with heavy rock and pushing it up a steep plank to dump it in order to make a \_\_\_\_\_, or protective wall.
- After supper, Cuff roams the camp collecting information such as where \_\_\_\_\_ is located and how the camp is laid out.

## Chapter 7

- Cuff convinces another slave to take his place at the parapet so he can do lighter work in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Cuff notices the Confederates using “\_\_\_\_\_,” fake cannons used as a bluff.
- Cuff recognizes a Union \_\_\_\_\_ and discovers he’d been working as a \_\_\_\_\_ for the South.
- During his free hour, Cuff wanders toward the camp line and luckily is assigned to watch the line. This allows him to \_\_\_\_\_ of camp as nightfall comes.

## Chapter 8

- Emma’s adjutant is pleased with the information she brings back to camp. “Franklin Thompson” is even congratulated by General \_\_\_\_\_ himself and is given the \_\_\_\_\_ as a souvenir.



- Emma goes back to work in the \_\_\_\_\_ tent just before McClellan orders an \_\_\_\_\_ on the Confederates. The rise in battles caused the hospital to become \_\_\_\_\_ with injured soldiers and dying men.
- After some time, the Northern generals decided they needed more information to be obtained by a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Chapter 9

- Emma crosses the enemy lines disguised as \_\_\_\_\_, an Irish peddler woman.
- Caught in a rainstorm, she seeks shelter in an \_\_\_\_\_ house where she finds a \_\_\_\_\_ soldier dying of typhoid fever named \_\_\_\_\_. She nurses him and prays for him, but he dies regardless. His last request was that she give his \_\_\_\_\_ to Major McKee.

### Chapter 10

- As soon as she enters camp, Emma asks to find \_\_\_\_\_.
- As she waits she listens in on the \_\_\_\_\_ working at the rebel headquarters. She collects information and takes note of their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- She walks around \_\_\_\_\_, and investigates as she goes.
- She delivers the gold watch to McKee and lets him know about Hall's death. He then asks her to take a \_\_\_\_\_ and direct some men to \_\_\_\_\_.
- After she shows the men to the body, she is asked to be a lookout and takes this chance to ride the horse back to the \_\_\_\_\_ camp.
- "Thompson" gives his information to Colonel \_\_\_\_\_ and is allowed to keep the horse. Emma names him \_\_\_\_\_.

## Chapter 11

- The Union had completed the bridge across the \_\_\_\_\_ and waged an attack on the Confederates which lasted for days. A \_\_\_\_\_ hit, damaging the bridge and prolonging the battle.
- “Thompson” worked as a \_\_\_\_\_ taking messages between the fighting troops that were spread out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ attacked “Thompson” and a few other Union men. \_\_\_\_\_ was hurt but quickly recovered.
- Emma was shot in the \_\_\_\_\_ when she approached some Union troops not realizing they were being held \_\_\_\_\_ by Confederates.

## Chapter 12

- “Thompson” takes a leave of absence in order for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Emma was quickly bored with civilian life so she volunteers at \_\_\_\_\_ where she cares for both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers.
- Emma returns to camp shortly before the final battle for \_\_\_\_\_. After the “Seven-Days-Battle” the Union loses and Emma’s troop is sent to \_\_\_\_\_, VA.
- Emma continues her work in the hospital as well as being a courier and a spy. She returns to the character of “\_\_\_\_\_” several more times and introduces some new disguises as well. She suffers \_\_\_\_\_ and other ailments but continues her important work.
- She and the Butlers are transferred to \_\_\_\_\_, KY.

## Chapter 13

- Emma disguises herself as a civilian named Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, in order to investigate which Louisville citizens were

\_\_\_\_\_ leaking information to the rebels (looking for their main agent in particular).

- Mayberry suspects Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, a dry goods merchant, of having something to do with the illegal activity, so Mayberry asked him for a job in order to \_\_\_\_\_ on him.
- Emma works hard and gained Mr. Aylesworth's \_\_\_\_\_.
- She discovers her suspicions were true, Aylesworth & Co. was a clearinghouse for undercover \_\_\_\_\_ activities and one man, Mr. Hall, seems to play an important role in these dealings.

#### Chapter 14

- Mayberry decides to find out more information from Aylesworth by saying he wants to \_\_\_\_\_ and asks for his help.
- Aylesworth tells him he can go with Mr. Hall on his \_\_\_\_\_ to meet up with Rebel troops since he has some important \_\_\_\_\_ to deliver to them.
- Mayberry informs the Union soldiers so that they're there to \_\_\_\_\_ them on the way. They "arrest" Mayberry so as not to let Hall know he is a spy, but he is \_\_\_\_\_ shortly after. In addition to Hall, two other informants and Aylesworth are arrested.

#### Chapter 15

- Emma's regiment is transferred to \_\_\_\_\_, MS to work under General \_\_\_\_\_ where a long, bloody, and exhaustive battle occurred along the banks of the river.
- "Thompson" and other medical officers worked tirelessly for weeks.
- Emma came down with \_\_\_\_\_. She knew she needed to be cared for, but if she was admitted into the hospital at the camp they would quickly discover she's actually a \_\_\_\_\_.



- Emma applied for \_\_\_\_\_, but it was denied. She decides to leave anyway and travels north to \_\_\_\_\_, IL where she can recover from her illness.
- After several weeks she reads in the paper that Franklin Thompson is listed as \_\_\_\_\_. Now that he has been listed as a deserter, Emma knows she can never again enlist as “Franklin Thompson.”
- She spends the rest of the war acting as a \_\_\_\_\_ in a base hospital under her rightful name.

## Chapter 16

- After the war, Emma continued work as a nurse and wrote her \_\_\_\_\_.
- Her story was very popular selling thousands of copies. She donated her share of the profits to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- She went back to \_\_\_\_\_ and met up with a childhood friend who ended up becoming her \_\_\_\_\_.
- They returned to the US and married in \_\_\_\_\_.
- She had three sons, one of whom became a \_\_\_\_\_ like his mom.
- Emma petitioned the war department to help clear the name of “Franklin Thompson” and they granted her \_\_\_\_\_ and a veteran’s pension.
- She lived a long and happy life, finally dying in \_\_\_\_\_ on September 5, 1898.