

THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE

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Level 3



WORDS USED

Story 11

Story 12

Story 13

Story 14

Story 15

KEY WORDS

army
discovery
honor
language
medal
written

aboard
American
appear
carve
grown
save

bedroom
glitter
grab
lively
sudden
you're

awful
begun
exercise
group
hollow
known

ashes
certain
cost
hero
president
scene

NECESSARY WORDS

battle
hut
private
regiment
soldier

enemy

commander
general
Nature
pride
shells
wounded

battered
death
knees
officer
test
uniform

badge
courage
yell

THE YOUNG SOLDIER



As Henry lay in his bunk at army camp, he thought about his mother's words to him as he left the farm to join the Union army.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentence under the picture.
 4. Read the first two paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

- You learned from your preview that
- a. it was a clear winter night.
 - b. this is a story about men and war.
 - c. Jim was not telling the true story.
 - d. the men were not ready to move out.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out if the men will move into battle.

THE YOUNG SOLDIER

The cold left the ground and the fog lifted. On the hills, the Union army rested and waited. A river moved by the army's feet. In the day, the river looked yellow. At night, the river was black. Across the dark stream, one could see the red light of angry Confederate campfires on the far-off hills.

This morning the men were moved by some exciting words. A tall soldier had gone down to the river to wash his shirt. While there, Jim made a discovery. He said the men were going to move into battle very soon.

Some of the soldiers did not believe Jim. They talked loudly among themselves. A young private looked on. He listened with eager ears. When he became tired of their talk, he went back to his hut. There he lay quietly in his bunk, thinking.

Henry had joined the army at an early age. His mind had made pictures of the battles and fighting men of the Civil War. He longed to see it all. The young man believed he could honor his family and friends by becoming a soldier. His mother hadn't liked the idea. She wanted her boy to stay at home and work on the farm. But one day, Henry had gone and written his name on the list of men who were going to fight.

"Watch out, Henry, and take good care of yourself," his mother had said. "Be sure to send your clothes home when they need fixing. And, please,

don't do anything that would not make me proud."

Henry thought about the past. Army life was not what he dreamed it would be. The young private was not pleased with this discovery. He and the other men kept moving from one camp to another. He wondered how a soldier could ever win a medal that way.

Henry jumped down from his bunk. He began to walk back and forth. The young man was afraid. Maybe he couldn't kill another man. He believed that men should talk about their troubles. Henry listened to the language of his heart. He knew one thing for sure. War was not the answer. Suddenly, Jim and the loud soldier, Wilson, came through the hole in the hut. Henry was awakened from this thoughts.

"How do you think the regiment will do, Jim?" asked Henry.

"Well, they're young. And they're new at this." Jim stopped for a moment. "I still think they'll be all right when the time comes."

"Do you think any of the men will run?" questioned Henry.

Jim thought for a while. "Maybe," answered the tall soldier. Jim, himself, felt that he might run if everyone else did. If everyone stayed and kept fighting, then Jim would fight too. He told these things to Henry.

The next day the regiment was still in camp. It seemed as if Jim's words of battle had not

been true. Now Henry would only have more time to worry. He looked for signs of the same feelings from the other men. None of them seemed to feel the way he did. The young man had two kinds of thoughts about the others. Sometimes he believed they were very brave. Other times he believed they were as scared as he was.

Soon, Henry could think no more. He found himself marching with his regiment. Jim's discovery had been right, after all. It looked as if the young private would get his chance to fight. Perhaps he would even honor his mother by winning a medal.

The men stopped in the dark woods. They waited for orders. After a while, a horseman arrived. He said something to the leader and rode off. Then, he turned and looked back. "Don't forget that box of cigars!" he shouted. Henry wondered what cigars had to do with war.

The regiment moved through the dark morning. The dark morning gave way to the yellow light of the sun. Long lines of men in blue moved like snakes. The soldiers seemed almost happy. They spoke of winning the fight. They laughed and joked with each other.

Henry did not smile. He was saddened by the men's gay language. The young private was still very much afraid. And these feelings were written on his tired face.

THE YOUNG SOLDIER

VOCABULARY CHECK

army	discovery	honor	language	medal	written
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I. Sentences to Finish

Choose the word from the box above that fits best in each of the following sentences. Then write the word on the line to finish the sentence.

1. We gave a dinner to _____ the fireman who rescued a family from their burning house.
2. The _____ waited to move into battle.
3. The English _____ has many different words that mean the same thing.
4. I wish I had _____ down the time of the play because now I don't remember when it starts.
5. A _____ was given to the winner of the swimming meet.
6. The baby's _____ of her hands and feet brought happy smiles to her tiny face.

II. Finish the Story

Use the words from the box above to fill in the spaces in the following story so that it makes sense.

While in the _____, the soldier made an important _____. He found that even though the enemy did not speak the same _____, they, too, were fighting for their _____. He had _____ these things to his family in a letter after he won a _____ for his courage.

Check your answers with the key on page 69.