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Civil War Voices

**C.W.Vs. 1: *from* “Mary Chesnut’s Civil War” by Mary Chesnut: pages 496-498**

*Mary Chesnut, who was both on the scene and privy to the actions and reactions of higher-ups in the Confederacy, started keeping a diary as the tension mounted in Charleston. In these entries, she provides readers with a vivid picture of the chaos and excitement accompanying the dizzying events during the days leading up to the bombardment of Fort Sumter.*

1. Briefly (2-3 sentences) summarize what you read.

2. What events does Mary Chesnut describe in her diary entries?

3. What does Mary Chesnut’s diary reveal about her attitude toward the war? Give an example that supports your response.

4. How might Chesnut’s diary have been different if she had been from the North?

**C.W.Vs. 2: “Recollections of a Private” by Warren Lee Goss: page 499**

*In this journal entry, a recent Union recruit describes the reality of the drudgery of camp life for enlisted men: mud, drill, and more drill. His observations contrast sharply with the expectations that he and many other recruits had when they enlisted.*

1. Briefly (2-3 sentences) summarize what you read.

2. How does Goss blend fact and opinion in his journal? Give two examples of when he does this.

3. How do Private Goss’s attitudes and expectations change after he has enlisted?

**“A Confederate Account of the Battle of Gettysburg” by Randolph McKim: page 500**

*In this diary entry, Confederate soldier Randolph McKim describes the futile and bloody attempts of his regiment and others to capture Culp’s Hill, the extreme right of the Federal position.*

1. Briefly (2-3 sentences) summarize what you read.

2. How would you describe the tone of Randolph McKim’s account? Why?

3. Is McKim’s journal entry more fact or opinion based? Is it reliable or unreliable, and what makes it so?

**C.W.Vs. 3: “An Account of the Battle of Bull Run” by Stonewall Jackson: page 501**

*Stonewall Jackson writes to his wife to inform her that he has been in a great and successful battle. He and his command performed admirably and he has emerged with no more than a broken finger. He credits God with providing for his own safety and the achievements of his troops. The letter reveals Jackson’s bravery, modesty, and religious devotion.*

1. Briefly (2-3 sentences) summarize what you read.

2. What did you learn about Jackson from this letter?

3. How would you describe the tone of Stonewall Jackson’s account? Why?

4. Stonewall Jackson’s letter is intended for his wife alone. Find three example of details or ideas that Jackson probably would have omitted from an account intended for publication.

**C.W.Vs. 4: “Reaction to the Emancipation Proclamation” by Reverend Henry M. Turner: page 502**

*Reverend Henry M. Turner uses an effusive tone to describe the exciting experience of being among the exhilarated crowd clamoring to read the Emancipation Proclamation when it was hot off the presses.*

1. Briefly (2-3 sentences) summarize what you read.

2. Is this text more fact or opinion based? Is it reliable or unreliable, and what makes it so?

3. What is the reaction to the Emancipation Proclamation among the members of Reverend Turner’s audience?

4. Why did the Emancipation Proclamation have such an emotional effect on African Americans who were already free?

**Reflection:**

**Take a moment and reflect upon how the different perspectives add to your understanding of the Civil War and Realism. In your response, discuss how each piece adds a different perspective. What are some of the similarities and differences among the selections you read today? Overall, do these pieces qualify to be called “Realist Literature”?**

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