



PATRIOTIC PALS TAILS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Companion Teaching Activities to the historical fiction serialized story

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Dear Educator,

Welcome to the eighth year of young people Reading Across Missouri! Our goal in this project is to have children across the state reading and learning about Missouri history inside their community newspapers. This year we have expanded our historical perspective to mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War (1861-1865).

“Patriotic Pals, Tails of the Civil War,” is a nine-chapter serialized story narrated by Chuck, a border collie from Missouri, a Border state during the war. Chuck introduces readers to dog mascots from the Civil War. Each chapter features a canine that participated in, or witnessed, a fray or major battle, from St. Louis to Pennsylvania, concluding with Illinois and Fido, the beloved mutt Lincoln left behind when he was called to Washington, D.C., to serve as president.

With a folksy, light-hearted paw, Chuck leads readers on a journey of Civil War battles from a pup’s point of view. Entertaining and educational, “Patriotic Pals” is a heartwarming tale of canine courage and loyalty.

The questions in this guide are aligned to Missouri’s Grade Level Expectations. The questions are appropriate for most elementary students and can be adapted to other grade levels.

We hope your students enjoy our story “Patriotic Pals,” and that this companion teacher guide serves as a valuable resource for expanding the learning opportunities while helping you meet your goals.

Happy Reading!

Dawn Kitchell
Missouri Newspapers In Education
Missouri Press Foundation & Association

Make Your Own Book

GLEs: Communication Arts R1E, R1G, W2E

Use the following directions to compile “Patriotic Pals” into your own booklets.

Page 1

Title Page—Write the title, author and illustrator on card stock with a picture that illustrates the title.

Page 2

Table of Contents—As you read each chapter, record the chapter name on this page.

Pages 3-10

The Story—Cut each chapter from the newspaper, then glue it onto a piece of paper. Arrange the pages in sequential order.

Pages 11-13

Glossary—Complete the glossary of terms. As you read each chapter, locate unknown words. Think about possible meanings by using context clues. Look up the words in the dictionary, and write the appropriate definitions on the glossary page.

Page 14

Back Cover—Use a piece of card stock for the back cover, then staple all of the pages into a booklet. You also could use a binder, rings or yarn to attach the pages.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: _____

Chapter 2: _____

Chapter 3: _____

Chapter 4: _____

Chapter 5: _____

Chapter 6: _____

Chapter 7: _____

Chapter 8: _____

Chapter 9: _____

Glossary

abound

acquaintance

ammunition

astound

brigade

brimming

calamity

clout

contortions

cur

encamp

fathom

gnaw

incessant

infiltrate

lux

mayhem

menagerie

militia

munition

mustered

ominous

recollect

reenact

regiment

repertoire

ruminare

secede

skew

sleuth

solace

staccato

stalwart

stoic

strategic

tidbit

vamoose

vigil

waft

Patriotic Pals—Timeline

Name _____

GLEs: Social Studies 3aI; Communication Arts R1H, R2C

Directions: This historical fiction story discusses many historical events during the Civil War. As you are reading the story, complete the timeline below.

March 4, 1861	
May 10, 1861	
April 6-7, 1862	
May 3, 1863	
July 1-3, 1863	
November 30, 1864	
December 23, 1864	
April 9, 1865	

Patriotic Pals
Character Chart

Name _____

GLEs: Communication Arts R1G, R1H, R2C

Chuck introduces a new Patriotic Pal each chapter. Use the chart below to describe each dog.

Chapter	Name of Dog	Owner(s)	Description of Dog
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			

Patriotic Pals Geography

Name _____

GLEs: Social Studies 3aI, 5A

Directions: Use the map below to label cities, states, rivers, and landforms mentioned in the story. Then color the Union states blue, Confederate states gray, and Border states red.



City and State

St. Louis, Missouri
Shiloh, Tennessee
Niagara, Pennsylvania
Antietam, Maryland
Cleveland, Ohio
Fort Sumter, South Carolina
Nashville, Tennessee
Richmond, Virginia
Lexington, Virginia
Charleston, South Carolina
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Rivers

Missouri River
Potomac River

Landforms

Shenandoah Valley

Patriotic Pals—Chapter 1

Name _____

GLEs: Communication Arts R1E, R1G, R1H, R2C, W2B, W2D, W2E

1. Who is the narrator of this story? How do you know?

2. Use context clues from the story to describe what “reenact” means.

3. How did Chuck remember which states made up the Union and which made up the Confederacy?

4. What do the words vamoosed and abolished mean?

In your local newspaper, look for synonyms of abolish and vamoose. Cut and paste them on a separate sheet of paper.

5. What size is a Pekingese portion? Use context clues from the story to explain your answer.

Patriotic Pals—Chapter 2

Name _____

GLEs: Communication Arts R1E, R1G, R1H, R2B, R2C, W2B, W2C, W2D, W2E; Math N2A, N3C

1. What was the job of the Militia?

2. About how many people were injured during the Camp Jackson Incident? Show your work below.

3. What is a mascot? Who was the mascot for the St. Louis Grays?

Locate pictures or names of mascots in your local newspaper. Cut and paste them on a separate sheet of paper.

4. What simile is used to describe Missouri after the start of the Civil War? What does it mean?

5. Summarize the Camp Jackson Incident.

Patriotic Pals—Chapter 3

Name _____

GLEs: Communication Arts R1E, R1G, R1H, R1I, R2B, R2C, W2B, W2D, W2E; Math N1B

1. What **percentage** of soldiers were casualties of the Shiloh battle? How did you calculate your answer?

2. Look up palsy-walsy in the dictionary. What does it mean?

3. What clues support that Shanks really was “man’s best friend?”

4. Describe Shanks using details from the story.

5. Shanks and his master, Lt. Louis Pfieff, were courageous. Locate pictures of people who you feel are courageous. Nominate one person from the newspaper for a *Badge of Courage*, and describe why you are giving the honor to this person.

Patriotic Pals—Chapter 4

Name _____

GLEs: Communication Arts R1E, R1G, R1H, R1I, R2B, R2C, W2B, W2D, W2E

1. What was Major General Thomas Jonathan Jackson’s nickname? Why do you think he was given that nickname?

2. Locate a picture of someone in your local newspaper that deserves a special nickname. What is your nickname for that person? Explain why you chose that nickname for that person.

3. Maj. Jackson was considered a “general of flawless moral character.” Locate an article in your local newspaper about someone in your community who shows good moral character. Summarize his or her good character traits.

4. How is the name of Sgt. John Van Lew McCreery’s dog an example of irony?

5. How did the Howitzers protect Stonewall during battle? Use details from the story to support your answer.

Patriotic Pals—Chapter 5

Name _____

GLEs: Communication Arts R1E, R1G, R1H, R1I, R2B, R2C, W2B, W2D, W2E

1. What does sleuth mean? How is doing research like being a sleuth?

2. The author shows you how to pronounce Antietam by writing an-tee-tum. Locate five unknown words from your local newspaper. Cut and paste them in the chart, then write their dictionary spelling.

Word	Dictionary Spelling

3. Gen. Robert E. Lee was a strategic leader. What does that mean? In the help wanted ads of your local newspaper, look for a job that you think would require a strategic leader. Cut and paste the ad on a separate sheet of paper, then describe why you think that job would require a strategic leader.
4. What are minie balls? Use context clues to explain your answer. Why do you think it is a bad idea for Brutus to catch minie balls in his mouth?

Patriotic Pets—Chapter 6

Name _____

GLEs: Communication Arts R1E, R1G, R1H, R1I, R2C, W2B, W2D, W2E; Social Studies 3aI

1. Why was the Battle of Gettysburg a low point for Gen. Robert E. Lee? Use details from the story to support your answer.

2. How was Sallie honored for her dedication to the Civil War soldiers?

3. Sallie was a good companion for the soldiers. Search the “Pets” section in the Classified ads in your newspaper for a good animal companion. Cut and paste the ad on a separate sheet of paper, and describe why that pet would be a good companion for **YOU**.

4. What adjectives are used to describe Sallie in this chapter? Search for other adjectives in your newspaper that could be used to describe her. Cut and paste the adjectives in the box below.

Patriotic Pets—Chapter 7

Name _____

GLEs: Communication Arts R1E, R1G, R1H, R1I, R2B, R2C, W2B, W2D, W2E; Social Studies 3aI; Math N2A, N3C

1. The 104th Ohio regiment had several pets. List the kind of pet and number of each pet in the chart below.

Type of Pet	Number of Pets

Look through the Classified section of your local newspaper. Calculate the number of pets for sale in the newspaper. Then, calculate the total price for the pets. Show your work in the box below.

2. In the battle at Franklin, how many more Confederate soldier casualties than Union casualties were there? Show your work in the box below.

3. The author used alliteration to describe Harvey. What words were used to describe Harvey?

4. What was inscribed on Harvey’s collar?

Patriotic Pets—Chapter 9

Name _____

GLEs: Communication Arts R1E, R1G, R1H, R1I, R2B, R2C, W2B, W2C, W2D, W2E; Social Studies 3aI

1. Chuck said, “The master and I are ruminating about what life would have been like in the 1860s...” What does ruminating mean?

Search your local newspaper for pictures of items that would not have existed in the 1860s. Cut and paste at least five pictures on a separate sheet of paper. Describe how the items have impacted our lives.

2. Who was Fido’s master? _____ How did Fido lose his master twice? Use details from the story to support your answer.

3. Fido slept on a horsehair couch. “Horsehair” is a compound word. Locate other compound words in your local newspaper, then cut and paste them below.

4. Pretend that you need to find an adoptive home for a beloved pet. On a separate sheet of paper, create an ad identifying the characteristics you’d look for in a new pet owner.