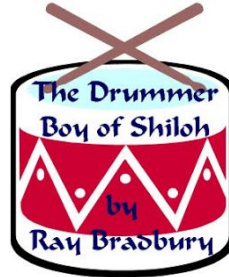


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# The Drummer Boy of Shiloh



## Close Reading Driving Question

- Pay attention to the details the author provides about the scene of the battle and about the men who were preparing to fight. What do those details suggest about the realities of war?
- Annotate the text for examples of:
  - Similes
  - Metaphors
  - Personification
  - Alliteration
  - Symbols
  - Allusions



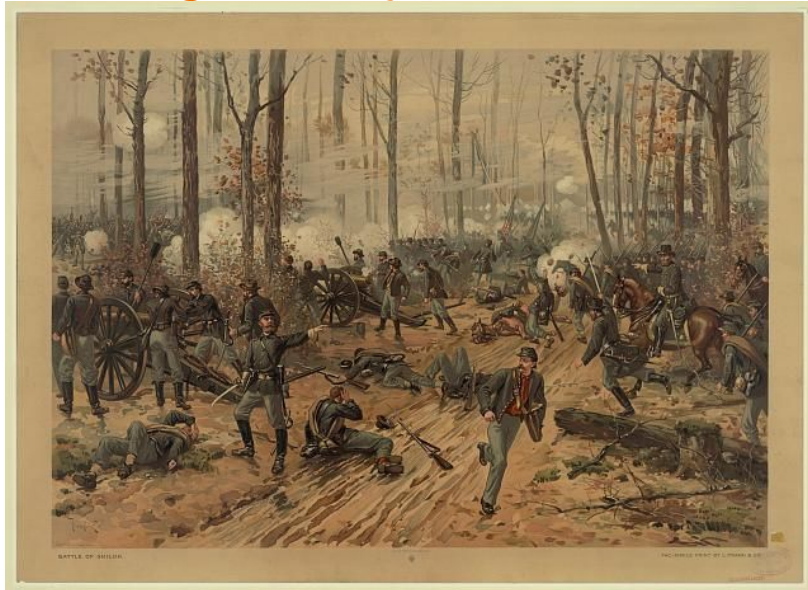
## Notes

**THE WORDS IN BLUE ARE  
NOTES FOR YOU! REMEMBER  
TO WRITE THE NOTES IN  
YOUR OWN WORDS!**

## Analyze Stories: Historical Fiction

- The setting, or the time and place, is especially important to understanding a story, particularly this story.
- Re-read line 1-13 and identify details that describe the setting.
  - The time is “in the April night.” The place is “in the peach field near the Owl Creek not far from the church at Shiloh.”
- How might the details of the setting contribute to the theme?
  - They provide a stark contrast to what will become a battlefield.

How does this image make you feel? What's the mood?



## Determine the Meaning of Words and Phrases

- Authors use descriptions and language that appeals to the senses to create or set the **mood**, the feeling or atmosphere in the story.
- The **mood**, whether is one of humor, sadness, or tension, is intended to evoke an emotional response from readers.
- Re-read lines 24-39 and identify language that describes the mood in the camp during the night before the battle.
  - Word choices such as “whispering to itself in the dark,” “I’ll live through it,” “careless bones... harvested by night,” and “strewn steel bones” help create the mood of muffled tension or foreboding; we know something is about to happen, and it’s probably going to be bad.

## Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

- When readers draw conclusions, they are making inferences and are using story details and their own prior knowledge and experiences to figure out things that an author has not explicitly stated about characters and events in the story.
- Use what you've read so far and lines 40-41 to infer how the drummer boy feels at this point.
  - Because he is awake and very alert to the sounds around him and is thinking about not having a rifle for protection, you can infer that the drummer boy is scared or afraid.

## Analyze Stories: Historical Fiction

- Some events actually happen in historical fiction, but the author may also make up some events. That's what makes it fiction.
- Authors rely on research to make made-up events realistic and true to the time period in which they happened.
- Lines 72-81: Which details make Joby think that the man talking to him is the General?
  - The man says, "I assume it is" when Joby asks him if he is the General. Also, the way the man smelled and the brass buttons also make Joby think he's talking to the General.
- How does their dialogue propel the story's action?
  - Their encounter suggests that the General is also anxious about the upcoming battle.

## Determine Meaning of Words and Phrases

- A person's or character's actions can also impact a story's mood.
- Re-read lines 82-94. Look at the General's statement, "There's your cheek, fell right off the tree overhead."
- What do these words suggest?
  - The General is talking about the fuzz from the peach, so the General is comparing Joby's cheek to the peach fuzz, which implies that he's too young to shave.
- What is the mood that his words help to create?
  - The General takes time to be kind to Joby, but his words suggest a feeling of frustration with his army's inexperience and youth.



## Drawing Conclusion and Making Inferences

- Lines 106-115: Look at the General's description of the young soldiers on both sides.
- Make an inference about how the General feels about the upcoming battle.
  - He is dismayed that the soldiers on both sides are so young and thinks that they should "train four months" before going into battle. He is probably saddened by his knowledge that many of the young soldiers will die in the battle.



## Determine Meaning of Words and Phrases

- Sometimes, authors use a **symbol**, a thing that stands for something beyond itself, to create the mood in a story.
- In lines 125-129, the pile of leaves and twigs is described. What does this symbolize?
  - It could symbolize the guidance the General is seeking; set afire, the pile of leaves could help him see how best to conduct the battle and save as many soldiers as possible.
- How does this description impact the mood of the story?
  - It emphasizes the darkness and thus uncertainty the General feels about the upcoming battle.



## Determine Meanings of Words and Phrases

- What characters say (dialogue and monologue) and how things are said (**tone**) can also affect the mood of the story.
- Lines 141-157: How do you think Joby feels when the General tells him that he is “the heart of the army”?
  - He probably feels very excited, suddenly important, and maybe less afraid.
- Look at the descriptive words “a sure steady, ever faster rhythm” that the General uses to describe Joby’s drumming. What mood does the General’s speech to Joby create?
  - The mood is one of increasing excitement and inspiration.

## Determine Meanings of Words and Phrases

- The emotions that a symbol evokes in a reader affect the reader's sense of the story's mood.
- Lines 170-176: The General's statement to Joby that "you're the general of the army when the General's left behind" means that Joby and his drum will symbolize what during the battle?
  - Joby and his drum will symbolize the General's strength and inspiration.
- How do the General's words impact the mood at the end of the story?
  - The mood becomes hopeful and heroic.

## Ticket out the Door

What effect did Bradbury's use of figurative language have on the story?