

Name _____ Date _____

Weekly Test Lesson 21

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Union Bugle Boy

Johnny hurried down the road, careful to stay far enough behind that his father and brother would not see him. He had resolved to go with the troops and share in the danger and the glory of the Civil War. The Emancipation Proclamation had freed all slaves in America on January 1, 1863. By that time, the war that divided the country had already been raging for nearly two years. President Lincoln had encouraged former slaves to join the armed forces. Being freed slaves, Johnny's father and brother felt it was their duty to support the Union in the conflict. They were determined to do their part to win the war for the North and end slavery forever. Johnny refused to stay behind, even though he was only ten and too young to enlist in the army.

His father and brother joined a growing sea of men camped beyond town. These new soldiers made up an African American regiment heading south in the morning, toward the battlefields. Johnny simply had to hide within the group until it was too late to turn back, and then he had to make himself necessary.

He waited in a cornfield until darkness fell, and then he crept toward the camp. The men gathered around flickering fires, whose shadows helped conceal Johnny as he slithered toward his target—a heavily loaded wagon. He checked that no one was watching before crawling aboard and squeezing into a corner. He thought he was too uncomfortable and excited to sleep, but eventually, he drifted into heroic dreams.

He awoke when the wagon jerked into action; all around him men chatted, horses snorted, and wagons creaked as the camp got moving. Johnny's limbs were cramped, but he remained hidden. He lasted until the unit stopped for lunch, when his hunger was more pressing than the need to stay out of his father's sight.

He hoped he could hide again before they resumed moving, but the moment he popped his head out of the wagon, he came face to face with his father. Johnny stumbled back at his father's shocked and thunderous expression. He squeaked out, "I'm coming along, too, and I promise to make you proud!"

His father brought Johnny through the camp, scolding him constantly. They halted in front of the unit commander, and his father explained the situation. The commander studied Johnny for an eternity and finally demanded, "Have you any talent for music?"

"I've never had the opportunity to play an instrument, but I have good rhythm," Johnny replied.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

“Then you shall become our bugle boy.” The commander called to another boy, a year or two older than Johnny, and added, “Our drummer, Henry, will teach you everything you need to know.”

Johnny faced his father, hope welling in his heart. His father consented with a stern nod. Then he said, “You may stay, but we will send a message to your mother, so she won’t worry more than she must.” Then he opened his arms, and Johnny rushed into them with relief.

Two Years Later

Johnny dragged his weary feet one step and then another. He felt as if he’d been walking forever with home always beyond his reach. He remembered hiding in that supply wagon, innocent and hopeful and determined to change the world. Though that was only two years ago, he felt that he had lived a dozen lifetimes.

Johnny patted the battered bugle he wore slung across his body. When he’d first attempted to blow a tune, the notes were honking geese. Eventually he’d learned to control the notes, and later he learned to play entire songs. The drummer, Henry, had quickly become a friend, and together they guided the troops with their music. The boys played in the morning to wake the men. Specific songs called the units to meals or other daily duties.

They played marching songs when the men marched into battle and victory songs when they won. Johnny’s favorite song was “Home Sweet Home,” a sweet reminder of what they had left behind.

Now he was on his way home again because the Confederate army had finally surrendered! He was older and wearier but still healthy and anxious to see his mother and sisters again. In the distance, he caught the first glimpse of their house. He smiled at his father and brother, walking beside him. Johnny lifted his bugle to his lips and played a jaunty tune as they marched the last stretch toward home.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

- 1 Read the sentences from the text.

The Emancipation Proclamation had freed all slaves in America on January 1, 1863. By that time, the war that divided the country had already been raging for nearly two years. President Lincoln had encouraged former slaves to join the armed forces. Being freed slaves, Johnny's father and brother felt it was their duty to support the Union in the conflict.

What does the word conflict mean as it is used in the text?

- (A) pressure
 - (B) fighting
 - (C) job
 - (D) aid
- 2 According to the text, which event happened first?

- (A) The Civil War divided the country.
- (B) The Confederate army surrendered.
- (C) Many former slaves joined the army.
- (D) The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves.

- 3 Read the sentences from the text.

He waited in a cornfield until darkness fell, and then he crept toward the camp. The men gathered around flickering fires, whose shadows helped conceal Johnny as he slithered toward his target—a heavily loaded wagon. He checked that no one was watching before crawling aboard and squeezing into a corner.

What does the phrase he slithered toward his target help the reader understand about Johnny's movement?

- (A) Johnny is pretending to be a snake.
- (B) Johnny is moving quickly and quietly.
- (C) Johnny is scared that he'll see a snake.
- (D) Johnny is moving with no target in mind.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

- 4 Read the paragraph from the text.

Now he was on his way home again because the Confederate army had finally surrendered! He was older and wearier but still healthy and anxious to see his mother and sisters again. In the distance, he caught the first glimpse of their house. He smiled at his father and brother, walking beside him. Johnny lifted his bugle to his lips and played a jaunty tune as they marched the last stretch toward home.

What mood is conveyed by the author's word choice in this paragraph? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

- 5 Read the sentence from the text.

His father and brother joined a growing sea of men camped beyond town.

What does the phrase a growing sea of men mean as it is used in the sentence?

- (A) There was no order to the men gathered.
- (B) The men were gathered next to the ocean.
- (C) There were a lot of men gathered in one place.
- (D) The men were getting wet in the rain as they gathered.
- 6 Label each event from the text in the order in which it happened. The first event will be labeled 1, and the last event will be labeled 4.

___ Johnny marches toward home.

___ Johnny learns to play the bugle.

___ Johnny hides in the supply wagon.

___ The unit commander allows Johnny to stay.

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

- 7 Choose the sentence that contains a spelling error.
- (A) He cheered when the villen in the movie was beaten.
 - (B) She followed the directions to make the mixture.
 - (C) It was a misfortune that the plates shattered.
 - (D) The lake is a great place to enjoy nature.
- 8 Choose the sentence that contains an error in grammar usage.
- (A) He has told me earlier.
 - (B) They have been talking for hours.
 - (C) We have done a lot of the work already.
 - (D) She has traveled to the mountains many times.

- 9 Read the sentence.

My sister was so sad to missed the trip to the zoo yesterday.

Which phrase **best** corrects the underlined phrase?

- (A) to had misses
 - (B) to has missed
 - (C) to have misses
 - (D) to have missed
- 10 Gina wrote a journal entry about her soccer game. Read her paragraph. Underline the **two** sentences that contain errors in grammar usage.

We had to compete against our biggest rival. I had been sick, so I missed practice all of last week. I was nervous, but the coach told us to play our best game and having fun. I could only play half of the time because I'm not back to full strength. I still had a lot of fun. I has been enjoying soccer so much this year!