

Simple Literature No. 71: Curriculum for
The Battle for St. Michaels

by S. Seifert

Parents and teachers may reproduce study guides from any *Simple Literature* book for personal use in public, private, or home school classrooms. This material may not be included in printed or online curricula, or be distributed, personally, electronically, or commercially, except as cited above.

Simple Literature curricula is ©2008 copyrighted by S. Seifert. All rights reserved.

First printing, 2008 / Printing year, 2008

How to Use This Curriculum

- 1.** Have students read the assigned chapters for 20 to 30 minutes each day.
- 2.** When students have finished the assigned chapters, ask the **Comprehension Questions**. A study guide worksheet is available for practice, but an oral discussion is appropriate for this age group.
- 3.** When you have finished discussing the comprehension questions, have students **Write a Paragraph**. Students should write in complete sentences, spell words correctly, capitalize the first letter of every sentence, and place a period at the end of each sentence.
- 4.** Although these guidelines work for this age group, remember that your students are individuals. Therefore, adjust the curriculum to your students' abilities and personalities.

Did you find something confusing, or are you excited about the curricula? You can contact us through <http://home.rmi.net/~seifert/id51.html>.

Although the number of e-mails received does not allow me to respond personally, every e-mail is read and appreciated.

If you want to view an alphabetical list of titles that have free comprehension questions, go to <http://home.rmi.net/~seifert/id50.html>.

S. Seifert

Curriculum for
***The Battle for St. Michaels* by Emily Arnold McCully**

OVERVIEW

1. Have students read the following sections:

Day one – Chapters 1 and 2
Day two – Chapters 3 and 4
Day three – Chapters 5, 6, and 7
Day four – Write a paragraph

Study guides for this book are available. If you assign them, let students complete the study

guides while they are reading the book.

2. When students have finished reading the assigned sections, ask the comprehension questions (study guide questions). If you assigned the written study guides, let students read their answers.

3. Prompt students to write a paragraph.

SUMMARY of Chapters 1 and 2:

Caroline is a fictional character in *St. Michaels*. She is a fast runner and lives during the War of 1812. The British have burned Havre de Grace, a nearby town. Her friend Robert thinks that *St. Michaels*, their town, can beat the British in a fight. Caroline's mother does not. Caroline's father is fighting the British at Fort McHenry, which is in Baltimore. Caroline wishes her father were home.

Caroline and Robert go to Parrott's Point to see the cannon *St. Michaels* will use to defend itself. Captain Dodson asks her to take a message to town and give it to Captain Kemp. She runs the whole mile and a half to deliver it. Captain Kemp gives her a note for Captain Dodson. When she has delivered the notes, she is sent home. Caroline does not want to go home, but she does. She learns that the British want to burn *St. Michaels* because the town builds ships.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS for Chapters 1 and 2:

1. What did Caroline like to do? What was she good at doing? Caroline liked to run. She could run faster than any boy or girl under 15 in *St. Michaels*, and she was only 9 and a half years old.

2. Caroline wanted to keep her town safe. What did she do to help? Caroline ran a mile and a half

to deliver Captain Dodson's note to Captain Kemp. Then she ran back to Captain Dodson with Captain Kemp's reply.

3. Why did the British want to attack this town? *St. Michaels* was a ship-building town. The British wanted to destroy the boats the city made.

SUMMARY for Chapters 3 and 4:

Caroline helps her mother with chores until Robert tells her that she and her mother are needed at the town square. A general tells them that the British plan to attack that night. They ask most of the women and children to leave the town. Caroline and her mother stay. The generals need her mother to help take care of the soldiers. Caroline and her mother hide their things—a silver tea set, china, jewelry and Caroline's French doll—while others pack up to leave. Caroline and her mother bring food and coffee to the church for the soldiers.

The weather turns bad, which helps the villagers. The town's soldiers sit in the church, and Robert and his friends sit in back. Caroline and her mother serve food and coffee. The town decides to try and fool the redcoats. The general tells them not to put any lights in their homes but to hang their lanterns high in

the trees. The children are told to run and tell the plan to all the remaining villagers. Caroline runs from house to house to tell the plan. The people do what they are told, and Caroline and the boys hang many lanterns high in the trees. Then Captain Kemp gives Caroline a note for Captain Dodson, who is at Parrott's Point.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS for Chapters 3 and 4:

1. Caroline and her mother did not leave. Why did they stay in the town with the men? The general asked Mrs. Banning to feed and house soldiers. She said she needed Caroline; Caroline agreed because she wanted to stay to run messages.

2. How did this town plan to trick the British? The town of St. Michaels turned off all their gas

and candle lights, hung lanterns high in the trees and put lanterns on the rooftops. In the bad weather, they hoped to fool the British cannons.

3. What did Captain Kemp ask Caroline to do? When Caroline had finished hanging lanterns, Captain Kemp asked her to take a message to Captain Dodson at Parrott's Point.

SUMMARY for Chapters 5, 6, and 7:

Caroline takes a message from Captain Kemp to Captain Dodson in the dark and amid the bad weather. Captain Dodson asks Caroline and Robert to stay with him and the 30 men who are by the cannon, in case he needs to send them for help. The redcoats attack without warning. Many of the 30 men are scared and run toward the town. Captain Dodson and John Stevens remain. The Captain tells Caroline to hold the American flag. The two men load and shoot the cannon once. Then they retreat. Caroline runs back to town holding the American flag. She hears the cannons firing on St. Michaels. She runs home and tells her mother what has happened. They wait. The next morning, Captain Dodson comes to their house. Because of the city's trick, the cannons overshot their town. Only Mrs. Merchant's roof was hit. The next morning, the town raises the American flag to show that St. Michaels has survived.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS for Chapters 5, 6, and 7:

1. Caroline and Robert were at Parrott's Point. Why were they there? Captain Kemp gave Caroline a note for Captain Dodson. Robert ran to the Point with her. Then Captain Dodson asked them to remain in case he needed to send a message.

2. It was night. What happened at Parrott's Point?

Over three hundred British troops made a surprise attack. All but two men ran away. Captain Dodson and John Stevens shot the cannon once. Then they, too, had to retreat.

3. What happened to the town? The British cannons shot at the town, but they overshot it because the lanterns were in the trees.

WRITE A PARAGRAPH

Have students relate one aspect of *The Battle for St. Michaels* to their own lives by writing a paragraph: The battle at St. Michaels really took place. It was a historical event. Captain Kemp, Captain Dodson, and John Stevens were real men during this battle. The author of this book made up Caroline and her family. Through them, though, the author showed the importance of the American flag. Why was the flag important? What did it mean to the people of St. Michaels? What did it mean to Caroline?

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for Chapters 1 and 2
The Battle for St. Michaels by Emily Arnold McCully

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. What did Caroline like to do? What was she good at doing?

2. Caroline wanted to keep her town safe. What did she do to help?

3. Why did the British want to attack this town?

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for Chapters 3 and 4
The Battle for St. Michaels by Emily Arnold McCully

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. Caroline and her mother did not leave. Why did they stay in the town with the men?

2. How did this town plan to trick the British?

3. What did Captain Kemp ask Caroline to do?

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for Chapters 5, 6, and 7
The Battle for St. Michaels by Emily Arnold McCully

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. Caroline and Robert were at Parrott's Point. Why were they there?

2. It was night. What happened at Parrott's Point?

3. What happened to the town?