

The Battle of Bull Run Curriculum-Based Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Ms. Clements's class with Mary Beth Bowen

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North	WE MUST {Gesture} END SLAVERY!	14	And talk about both sides being <i>over</i> -confident!
South	YOU NORTHERNERS CAN'T TELL US SOUTHERNERS WHAT TO DO {Gesture}	ALL	(hum first few bars of peppy- "Johnny Comes Marching Home."
1	It's 1861.	15	Both Northerners <i>and</i> Southerners were saying...
2	And the Civil War is just getting started.	16	Winning this war will be:
3	Both sides think they will win...in just a few months	17	A snap!
South	WE'RE GONNA {Gesture} LICK THOSE YANKS EASY!	18	A piece of cake!
North	WE'RE GONNA KILL {Gest} THOSE RED-NECK REBELS!	19	A walk in the park!
ALL	THE ENEMY WILL BE CRUSHED BY CHRISTMAS {Gesture}	ALL	A PICNIC! {Gesture}
4	So you're saying both sides were confident?	20	And speaking of picnics...
5	They were <i>over</i> -confident.	21	People in DC were <i>so</i> confident that the North would win....
6	So what happened?	22	Yes?
7	What was the first big battle for the Union & Confederate armies?	1	That they packed picnic sandwiches...
ALL	THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN.	2	Ham or cheese?
8	Say what? {gesture}	3	And rode out to Manassas, Virginia
9	The first big battle of the Civil War was...	ALL	{Gesture & S.E.}
ALL	THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN.	4	In their horse-drawn carriages...
10	Where was it fought?	5	To watch the Union
11	In Manassas, Virginia.	ALL	{Gesture}
12	Hey, isn't Manassas pretty close to DC?	6	Whip the Confederates. {Gest.}
13	Yup, it's only 30 miles southwest of here.	7	Did they really do that?
		8	What were they thinking?
		9	That the North would win!
		10	The ladies wore big hoop skirts and carried dainty parasols.
		GIRLS	{Gesture}
		12	And the men were dressed... in their black Sunday suits.
		BOYS	{Gesture}

- 13 Some people brought opera glasses. {Gesture}
- 14 Some people even brought champagne.
- ALL {Gesture & Sound effect}
- 15 But tell us about the actual battle.
- 16 Yeah, who won?
- 17 Well, at first.....the North was winning.
- 18 And the picnickers raised their champagne glasses
- ALL {Gesture}
- 18 to toast the Union triumph,
- ALL TO VICTORY! {Gesture}
- 19 But then...
- ALL {Gesture & Sound Effect}
- 20 Confederate reinforcements came.
- 21 Ten-thousand Confederate soldiers arrived by train.
- ALL Gesture & Sound Effect}
- 22 It was the first time in history...
- ALL {Gesture & Sound Effect}
- 1 that a railroad was used to bring soldiers to a battlefield.
- 2 You still haven't answered the question!
- 3 What?
- ALL WHO WON? {Gesture}
- 4 The Confederates won...
- 5 But they were totally exhausted...
- 6 By the end of the battle.
- ALL Gesture & Sound Effect}
- 7 What happened to the picnickers?
- 8 When they saw that the North was losing...
- ALL RUN! {Gesture}
- 9 They ran {Gesture} to their horse-drawn carriages...
- 10 And bolted back to DC.
- ALL {Gesture & Sound Effect}
- 11 And afterwards, the picnickers and many Northerners...felt very discouraged.
- ALL {Gesture & Sound Effect}
- 12 So....what was the significance of the battle of Bull Run?
- 3-1 {hum –sad & slow - “Johnny Comes Marching Home”}
- 13 It was a wake-up call... for both the North *and* the South.
- 14 A lot of soldiers died
- 15 Union soldiers...
- 16 And Confederate soldiers
- (two boys step forward, lay down as dead soldiers/ two girls step forward, kneel as grieving mothers)
- 17 Bull Run showed people... that the Civil War would be...
- 18 longer
- 19 harder
- 20 and bloodier
- 21 than anyone had expected.
- 22 The war would be
- ALL No picnic.
- 1-3 {last few hummed bars of “Johnny Comes Marching Home”and silence}