**Informational Narrative, Level H, The Battle Cry of Freedom**

**The Battle Cry of Freedom**

(Published book; revised and edited with little teacher support)

Perry

The boy’s young green eyes shone in the light as he gave the beat of “When Johnny Comes Marching Home.” He thought about how his mother begged him not to leave when he joined the Pennsylvania Volunteers. Soon his thoughts withered away, the alert was spread, the Reb’s were in sight. The 110th Pennsylvania Infantry’s job was to split Stuart and Lee’s army in two by going directly in center cutting off all communications from Lee to Stuart, and vice versa. The drummer boy glanced at the Stars and Stripes flying high; below the flag was his great friend, John.

“Jed, Jed, pay attention; we’ve been playing ‘Da Batter Cry of Freedom’ for two minutes now.” The crackling, almost terrified, voice of John came from the beloved flag of The USA. Jed’s reaction was direct change of song from the beat of “When Johnny Come Marching Home” to the rhythm of “The Battle Cry of Freedom.” Soon the troops set camp about a mile out of Chancellorville.

***(Can you find additional vocabulary that is specific to war or the Civil War in particular? How does the use of these terms improve the story?)***

Late at night Jed—15 years old—with the drum, John—17—with the Stars and stripes, and Hank in his early twenties with the 110 regimental flag set up a tent near the other flag bearers and drummer boys. Jed tried not to think about the battle.

“How long you been away from home, Hank?” Jed was trying not to start a conversation on the upcoming battle, but he said this in a terrified manner.

The answer was though about for awhile. Sitting there almost pale face was not the Hank Kennedy the two boys knew, not even the one Hank knew. “Too long, how about you two?

“One month, two months I don’t know. There is one thing I know, that th…this is my first battle,” John replied. Being about to puke jed passed out at the thought of a bayonet sticking him in the stomach.

At the first sign of sun the three boys where up and not sure if they were ready for the most traumatizing event of their lives, and for some their last….

As the boys approached the great wave of gray, the first shots were fired. Men fell injured but not yet ready to enter Kingdom Come. As they closed in on the Reb’s they played the song “The Army of the Free.\*” As the Army of the Potomac marched on towards railroads that they were to destroy Jed noticed not all the men were on horses, some were on foot because their horses died from a gunshot wound. They had long rifles like the men his army, with a bayonet on top.

When the railroad was destroyed, they tried to hold the cavalry away from Chancellorville. More and more of the cavaliers were forced to walk and fight on foot. Once a bullet barely missed Jed’s drum.

As hours went by many men fell. They had passed a man with a bayonet on his rifle. He used the bayonet to stab the wounded men of the Potomac.

The man struck a soldier in the side as he was passing. As quickly as the injured man fell, the “bayonet man” died. As they marched along, they saw more “bayonet men.”

In confusion, one struck Hank in the stomach. As the man drew his gun back for another blow, jed unstrapped his drum and jumped on Hank only to be stabbed in the back. Blood gushed out of Jed’s back, leaving both of the helpless to die….

\*This song is about a battle similar to Chancellorville.