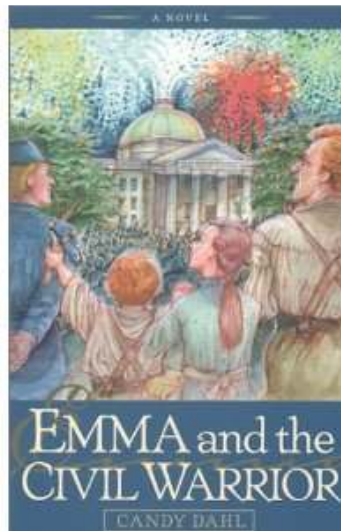


A Teacher's Activity Guide for
Emma and the Civil Warrior

Written by Candy Dahl



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Teacher's Guide written by Debbie Gonzales

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Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about the Civil War? Factasy.com describes the brief history of the American Civil War (1861 – 1865) as “...a civil war between the US of American, called the Union [the Yankees], and the Confederate States of America [the Rebels] formed by eleven Southern States that declared their secession from the Union. The Union won a decisive victory, followed by a period of Reconstruction. The war produced more than 970,000 casualties (3 percent of population), including approximately 560,000 deaths. The causes of the war, the reasons for the outcome, and even the name of the war itself, are subjects of much controversy, even today (www.factasy.com/civil_war/a_brief_history.shtml).”
 - a. Who were the Yankees?
 - b. Who were the Rebels?
 - c. Which states were Union States?
 - d. Which states were the Confederate States?
 - e. What about North Carolina? Was it a Union or Confederate State?

2. Consider the title *Emma and the Civil Warrior*.
 - a. Can you predict what this book will be about?
 - b. Do you think that there can be multiple meanings for this title?
 - c. *Civil* is the root of the word ‘civility’ which means *courteous behavior and politeness*. As part of the title, do you think that the word ‘civil’ can have more than one meaning?
 - d. Can a war be polite?
 - e. Can a soldier be courteous?

3. In the first chapter Yankee soldiers ransack into Aunt Lily’s farm and home, tearing “...down fences and killing two oxen” (12). Twelve-year-old Emma gazes “...into the bloodshot eyes and smelled the unwashed body of a demon Yankee” (9). Emma, her little brother Micah, and Aunt Lily are both terrified and confused. Emma doesn’t “...understand this war at all. Why did the Yankees come to Aunt Lily’s Farm? What could one woman and two children do to the Union army” (13)?
 - a. Why do you think the Yankee soldiers acted so violently against Emma’s family?
 - b. What did they want?
 - c. Did they get what they wanted?
 - d. Why do you think they came to Aunt Lily’s and Uncle James’ farm?
 - e. Aunt Lily prayed, “We are thankful to have this land – which no one can take from us (15).” Is this a true statement? Can someone take the land from her?
 - f. How did Aunt Lily trick the soldiers?
 - g. Did Emma have a trick for them, as well?

4. Jinny tells Emma the story of her life when she says, “My old master, Mr. MacAuley, give me my freedom when he died. I done been his slave for twenty years, since I was three years old. No one would hire a free black woman until I ask your Papa. And I been with your family since before you were born” (26).
 - a. What do you think Jinny was saying here?
 - b. If Jinny were a ‘free black woman’, why did she want to become a servant for Emma’s family?
 - c. Do you think Jinny was happy being a servant for Emma’s family?
 - d. If so, why?

5. Early in the story, Emma bravely smuggles morphine to Doc Hayworth (32-3). In Chapter 5, Emma helps her mother nurse a dying Confederate soldier. “Tears welled in Emma’s eyes and burned behind her nose” (37), as she listens to the young man dictate his last loving letter to his wife. Later in the chapter Emma says, “How dare these Yankees walk smack dab in the middle of our streets while all we do is hide behind our window shutters...I’m sick and tired of running like a scared rabbit” (38). Emma also states, “Well, I’m not scared. I’m sick of wondering what these Yankees are gonna do next” (39).
 - a. What kind of girl do you think that Emma is?
 - b. What do the tears say about her?
 - c. What does her willingness to help her mother care for a dying man reveal about her character?
 - d. What about her frustration with the Yankee’s intrusion?
 - e. Find four words to describe Emma’s character.
 - f. Do you like Emma?
 - g. Would she be someone you’d like to have as a friend?

6. In Chapter 6, Emma first meets Lieutenant Round, a high ranking officer in the Union Army. He greets her by saying, “Hello, miss...Could you tell me where I might sit down?” (44). He is injured. Emma distrusts him and helps out of a sense of duty rather than a feeling of compassion. Lieutenant Round also tells her, “Don’t be afraid...I can’t thank you enough for your kindness” (45). Emma’s mother, Mrs. Graham, kindly tends to the Lieutenant’s wounded hand. In gratitude, he says that he is “Fortunate to have a gentle nurse attend...” to him. This *civility* is “...too much for Emma” (48).
 - a. How is Lieutenant Round different than the Yankee soldiers who ransacked Aunt Lily’s farm?
 - b. How is he the same?
 - c. Why do you think the Lieutenant’s *civility* angers Emma?
 - d. Isn’t being polite and thoughtful a good thing?
 - e. Why do you think Emma mistrusts him?
 - f. Would you mistrust him if you were Emma? Why or why not?

7. When Lieutenant Round reports that the Confederate Army had surrendered to the Union Emma accuses him of lying. She comments, “The South will never surrender” (49). Also, in Chapter 1, after the Yankee’s ransacking, Aunt Lily prays, “...We are thankful to have this land – which no one can take from us” (15).
- Why do you think Emma became angry at the thought of surrender?
 - What does *surrender* mean?
 - Do you think Emma’s reaction has anything to do with Aunt Lily’s prayer?
8. In Chapter 14, Simon tells Lieutenant Round about his joyful marriage to beloved Pearl and the tragic heartaches that follow. The lieutenant places his hand on Simon’s shoulder and listens intently (66-7), remarking that instead of choosing to be “bitter” and “full of hate” Simon possesses “...strength of character” (70).
- Why would choosing bitterness and hatred be justifiable character traits for Simon? Why would these traits be understandable choices for Simon?
 - What did the lieutenant mean by the term *strength of character*?
 - What does strength have to do with choosing to be happy?
 - What does the Union officer’s careful listening say about Lieutenant Round?
 - What does the act of placing his hand on Simon’s shoulder reveal?
 - Should a Yankee treat a black person with kindness? Why or why not?
 - Why does Lieutenant Round care about what Simon is saying?
 - Does possessing strength of character have anything to do with civility? How so?
 - Does Lieutenant Round’s concern for Simon have anything to do with civility? How so?
9. A *tactic* is a scheme, a deliberate act, a plan of action to defeat an enemy. Emma tells Micah that stealing Lieutenant Round’s signal code book is a “tactic...a secret move against the enemy” (80).
- What did she mean by calling this act a *tactic*?
 - Who is Emma’s enemy?
 - What do you think about Lieutenant Round?
 - Can he be trusted?
 - Was stealing his code book a good thing for Emma to do?
 - Why do you think that she did it?
10. In Chapter 13, Micah is brought before Lieutenant Round in accusation for stealing the signal code book. Emma eventually confesses that she originally took it saying, “We were scared...Scared that you would need your signal book to send Sherman’s order to the Yankees. The order not to burn our city” (109). Rather than becoming angry with Micah and Emma, the Lieutenant responds with calm compassion for the two. Confused by Round’s response, Micah asks, “Are you still a Yankee, Lieutenant Round” (109)?
- Lieutenant Round had every reason to punish Emma for stealing his important signal code book. Why didn’t he?

- b. Why do you think Lieutenant Round demonstrated compassion?
 - c. Why do you think Micah asked Lieutenant Round if he was still a Yankee?
 - d. Is Micah seeing another side of the officer? A kinder, more forgiving side?
 - e. Do you think the Lieutenant's reaction was a tactic? Why or why not?
11. Papa returns home from the war maimed and thin. Micah and Emma respond to his physical change in different ways. Emma watches as Micah toys with Papa's empty sleeve by rolling "...it up until the cylinder of materials met the stump of Papa's arm, just above where his elbow should've been. Micah released the roll and watched the shirt sleeve quickly unfurl" (125). In contrast, Emma's response to her father's invitation to sit beside him is "I can't sit now..." (125).
- a. Describe Micah's reaction to his father's injury. How does he feel about his father's missing arm?
 - b. How does Micah feel about his father's return from the war?
 - c. Why wouldn't Emma comply with her father's request to sit beside him?
 - d. How does she feel about his return?
12. In Chapter 17, how do you think Emma felt when she overheard her father tell Lieutenant Round "...I owe you many thanks as well, especially for seeing that a guard was stationed at my home..." and the Lieutenant's response saying "I would have wanted my family protected in similar fashion if the circumstances had been reversed" (139).
- a. What was her father saying to the Yankee? Thanking him? For what?
 - b. What was the Lieutenant saying to her father?
 - c. Why would a Yankee want to protect the family of a Confederate soldier?
 - d. Had Emma misjudged Lieutenant Round's intentions? His character? How so?
13. Papa describes the scene when he was forced to surrender his rifle to the Union not as a moment of humiliation but as, "...it wasn't like that at all. The Union soldiers, our mortal enemies just hours before, stood silent and at attention as we marched between them. They began to salute us as we moved passed. Tears fell from the eyes of many..." (140).
- a. The Union soldiers were treating the Confederate soldiers with respect and compassion. Why?
 - b. What does it mean to be *humiliated*?
 - c. Have you ever been humiliated? When? Describe the feeling.
 - d. The word *mortal* means deadly, fatal, and murderous. An *enemy* is someone who is hated or competed against. Why did the Yankees stand at attention and salute the Confederate soldiers rather than treat them with cruelty?
 - e. Why were tears falling?
 - f. Were the Yankees treating the Confederate soldiers with respect? Compassion? With civility?

- g. Is there any correlation with the Yankees' response to the surrendering Confederate soldiers and Simon's demonstration of strength of character? How so?

14. Final thoughts...

- a. What is the theme of this book?
- b. What message was the author trying to convey?
- c. What changes occurred in Emma?
- d. Did Emma develop strength of character? How so?
- e. What sorts of things did Emma learn about war and compassion and civility?
- f. What sorts of things did you learn about war and compassion and civility?

Compare and Contrast

Emma's world was very different than the one we live in today. Study the pictures featured below. In the spaces provided, compare and contrast the featured items with similar things we use today. Describe five similarities and five differences.



Compare and contrast a crinoline dress Emma might have worn with modern clothes.

5 Similarities

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

5 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



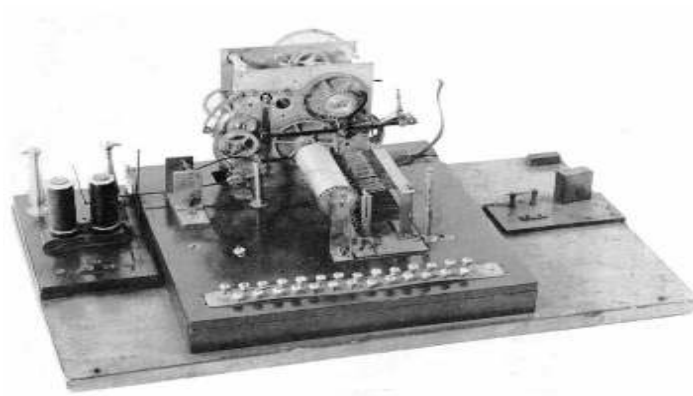
Compare and contrast Emma’s mode of transportation, a horse and buggy, to modern ways of transportation.

5 Similarities

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

5 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



(Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.)
1856 PATENT OFFICE MODEL OF HUGHES' PRINTING TELEGRAPH

Compare and contrast a method of communication used in Emma's day, the telegraph, with today's telephones and/or computers.

5 Similarities

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

5 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Compare and contrast a clothes washing machine Emma might have used with those used to launder clothing today.

5 Similarities

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

5 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Map Study

Become familiar with Emma's homeland through map making. Use colored pencils and an atlas for reference to discover the locations and landforms listed below.



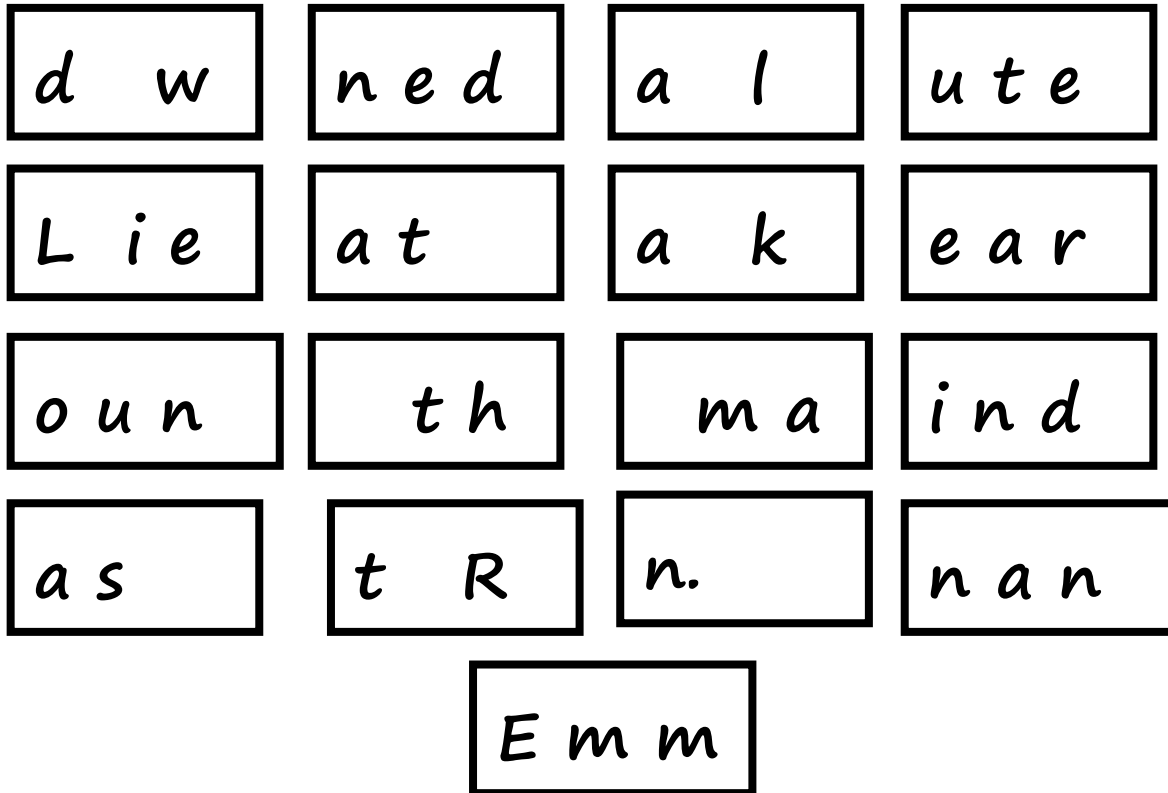
Label the following:

- The state of Mississippi
- The state of Alabama
- The state of Florida
- The state of Georgia
- The state of South Carolina
- The state of North Carolina
- The state of Tennessee
- The state of Kentucky
- The state of Virginia
- The state of West Virginia
- The city of Raleigh, NC
- The Appalachian Mountain Range
- The Gulf of Mexico
- The state of Louisiana
- The state of Arkansas
- The Atlantic Ocean
- Appomattox, VA
- Richmond, VA

Like a real cartographer (a map-maker), choose 4 different colors. Color the states using only those 4 colors. Make certain that the border of each state is a different color. No state border can have the same color touching it.

Letter Tiles

Print this page. Cut out the letter tiles. Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.



Hint: What did Emma discover about Lieutenant Round?

I Am Poetry

I Am poems are both easy and great fun to write. Choose your favorite character from *Emma and the Civil Warrior*. Think about the roles that character played in the story. Think about the type of person that character is. Are they a girl, boy, or grown up? What did they do in the story? Were they brave, silly, mean, kind, or sad? How were they changed in the story? Did they learn anything?

After you've given your character a bit of thought simply list your ideas or character traits on the lines below. On the last 'I am' line of your poem write your character's name.

Draw a picture of your favorite character in the space above your *I Am* poem.

Character's Name

I am _____

I am _____

I am _____

I am _____

I am _____

I am _____

A Civil Cinquain

A cinquain is a poem that follows a prescribed form based syllabic count and specific word choice. They are great fun to write. Just follow these easy instructions and see for yourself!

Think about the things you learned in Emma and the Civil Warrior. What interested you the very most? A character? A setting? The period in history? Decide upon your favorite part of the book. Pick a topic or character that that pleases you. This will be the title for your cinquain.

Write your topic here: _____

Now think of words that apply to your topic. Think of nouns, action words, adjectives, and feeling words. Think of at least five good, strong words for each category. (Refer to the word samples listed in red and then discover five your own.) Feel free to use a dictionary or a thesaurus to help find the best words.

Nouns	Action words (-ing verbs)	Adjectives (describing words)	Feeling words
<i>girl</i>	<i>fighting</i>	<i>happy</i>	<i>frightening</i>
<i>soldier</i>	<i>smiling</i>	<i>scary</i>	<i>prideful</i>

Next, use this form to establish the form of your cinquain. Write your title on the line below. The first line of your poem must be one word that is a noun and is constructed of two syllables. Look back through your list and find the best word to describe your title. Line 2 consists of two adjectives describing your title. Line 3 is created with three action words. Line four required four feeling words. Line 5 refers to the first line of your cinquain. Go ahead. You can do it. Cinquains are fun to write!

Poem Title _____

Line 1: (1 word noun-2 syllables)

Line 2: (2 adjectives-4 syllables)

Line 3: (3 action words-6 syllables)

Line 4: (4 feeling words-8 syllables)

Line 5: (1 word referring to Line 1-2 syllables)

When you have finished your poem, rewrite it on notebook paper or on the computer. Read it aloud to a friend. Feel very pleased with yourself. You have created something uniquely special. Well done!

Acknowledgements



In January 2007 Candy Dahl received her Masters of Fine Arts degree in Writing for Children and Young Adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She currently resides in Raleigh, North Carolina, with her husband David. They have two adult children, Matthew and Emily.

Candy is hard at work on two more historical novels and an early chapter book. In addition to writing, she loves, loves, LOVES reading. And gardening. And cooking. And musical theatre. And music, in general. And the ocean. And...well...lots of things! Life is good!

EMMA AND THE CIVIL WARRIOR is her first published book.

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DEBBIE GONZALES has worked as a teacher, a school administrator, and educational consultant, an art director and a creative writing workshop instructor. Deb earned her MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She has published a number of early-readers with New Zealand's Giltedge Publishing and serves as the Regional Advisor for the Austin SCBWI Chapter. Debbie's blog, *Simple Saturday*, features simply sensational and sometimes quite silly weekly art, science, math, and reading activities suitable for all ages. Contact Debbie at www.debbiegonzales.com.

Answer Key

Map Study (page 12):



Letter Tile Message (page 13):

Emma learned that Lieutenant Round was a kind man.