

“Captain Molly Pitcher”

Set the Stage:

- 1) Ask the question: “Do you think that in a crisis that people are capable of things they couldn’t otherwise do?” Why do you think this is?
- 2) The last two weeks, we’ve studied about a hero of the American Revolution – Paul Revere. Today we will hear a story about another unlikely war hero. Remind the class that the main role of women in was to care for the injured and feed the troops.
- 3) Instruct the class to listen closely to the story to find out what happened when a woman faced an impossible task.

During the Reading:

Stop occasionally to ask the following:

- What do you think will happen next?
- How would you feel if this happened to you?
- What does that mean? (for any difficult vocabulary)
- Save the “should” questions for class discussion time

Checking comprehension: (all oral work)

- 1) What clues can we point to in the story that tells us this battle was not taking place according to plan?
- 2) What did Molly volunteer to do to help the soldiers?
- 3) How long did Molly work without a rest?

Discussing Ideas: (all oral work)

- 1) Why didn’t Molly fall apart when she saw her husband get killed?
- 2) What does this say about the desire for the colonists to be free?
- 3) Should Molly have taken over for her husband even though women weren’t supposed to fight in battle? (Be careful here that the topic doesn’t stray too much to the pros and cons of women in battle today because the topic can distract from the main focus of the story - someone who had the courage to take immediate action under impossible circumstances)

Class Written Activity:

- 1) Compare and contrast Molly with the would-be bride in “The Squire’s Bride”. Use a Venn Diagram. <http://www.classroomjr.com/printable-blank-venn-diagrams/2-circle-venn-diagram-blank/> The mentor should write this on the white board and students should copy onto their own papers. Explain what a Venn Diagram is as some students may not have ever used one. Here is a character worksheet to help you: http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson175/traits.pdf

At-home extension: (mentors' discretion)

Write a diary entry for Molly about her day in the war. Tell about what you saw, heard, smelled, tasted, felt. Try to use simile and personification in your diary entry. What were you thinking as you saw your husband shot dead? What made you decide to take up your husband's gun and finish the fight? Make sure to describe what happened, not just tell what happened.

Tips for success:

- 1) Remember that you are writing a diary entry, not answering reading comprehension questions! Make sure your sentences fit together into a journal entry
- 2) Use first person (I, me, my) for Molly.
- 3) Since this is a diary entry, don't use topic sentence/clincher sentences
- 4) Use interesting words to help your reader to "see" what you are describing. If you have the IEW Student Reference Booklet, use this to find great words to use. You may also use a thesaurus.