

The Boy in Grey

A Tale of the U.S. Civil War

By and by, there was another war in our country. This war, however, was not with the English; it was between our own people in the north and our own people in the south—the Civil War.

It was a sad war. The soldiers on both sides were brave and true to what they thought was right. Even the schoolboys fought in this war; and there are many stories told of their bravery.



There was one boy in the southern army whose name was James Dinkins. James was born in Mississippi in 1845. He had been sent to a North Carolina school where boys are taught to be soldiers; and there he was when the war began in 1861.



The map above shows part of the United States today.

- 1. Color James's home state orange.**
- 2. Color the state where he went to school green.**

The boys of the school longed to go to the war; and all the boys who were old enough went. But James was a new boy, and had not been in training very long. Then, too, he was too young to go to the war.

Civil War

Civil War

soldiers

soldiers

training

training

"But I must go," he would beg.

"Too young," the colonel would say.

One day word came that the northern soldiers were coming, and that there would be a battle.

"I must go and fight," James said. "I cannot stay at school and let the northern soldiers fight my people!"

So at last he was allowed to go. Very soon there was fighting, and James and the other cadets from the military school were formed in line.

"Forward, cadets!" the colonel cried. "Guide center! Charge bayonets! Double quick!"

The bullets flew about their heads, but not a boy showed fear. Straight forward they charged, close up to the ranks of the northern soldiers. The northern soldiers were amazed!

"Mere boys!" they said. Yes, but brave boys they were.

3. James was eager to fight the northerners.

a. True

b. False

There was a hot fight; the northern soldiers fell back; and the cadets were the heroes of the day!

colonel

colonel

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military

military

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battle

battle

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James's family, like many families in the southern states,

owned slaves. Slaves are workers who are not paid, and are the property of their owners. Although James did not mistreat his family's slaves, many slaves in the south were mistreated. One reason the northern states fought this war was to end slavery, which many northerners thought was unfair.

slavery

slavery

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There came a time when there was not enough food for the cadets. Winter came and they had no warm clothes. Their shoes were so ragged and worn that some of the cadets bound rags around their feet to keep them from freezing.

James served in the Confederate army until the war was over. He attained the rank of lieutenant. He then went to live in one of the cities of the south. He was always ready to tell stories of the war.

Confederate

Confederate

The southern (Confederate) states lost the Civil War. Slavery was ended in the United States.

4. James was born in 1845. The Civil War began in 1861. How old was James when the Civil War began?

Draw a picture from the life of James Dinkins.

