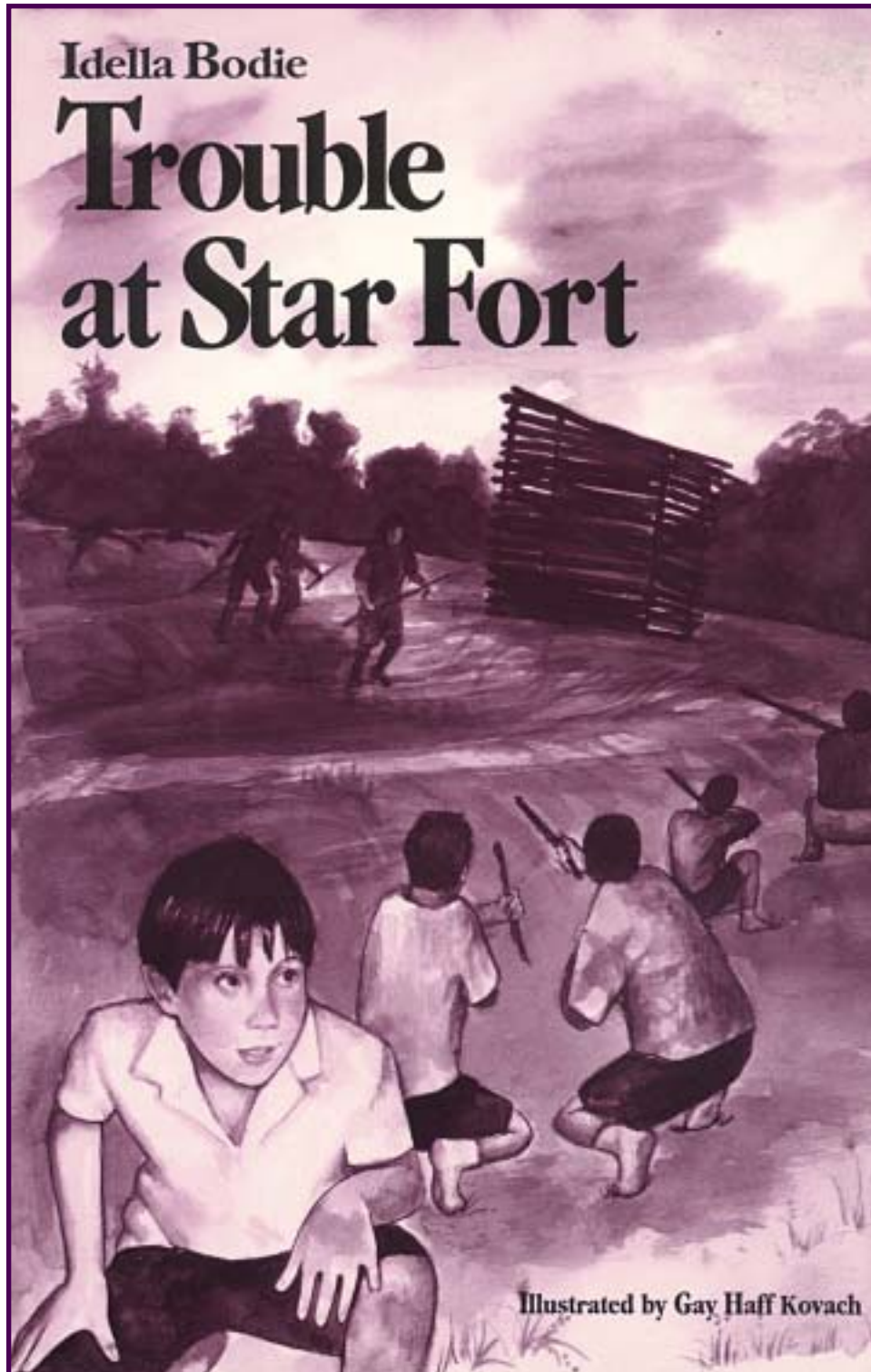


# An Activities Guide to



"Mrs. Bodie can skillfully weave historical facts into an adventurous tale. . . . There's no doubt about it, she knows children."  
—Aiken Standard

# An Activities Guide to **Trouble at Star Fort**

A Revolutionary War Story

COMPILED BY AUTHOR

**Idella Bodie**

© 1996 by Idella Bodie

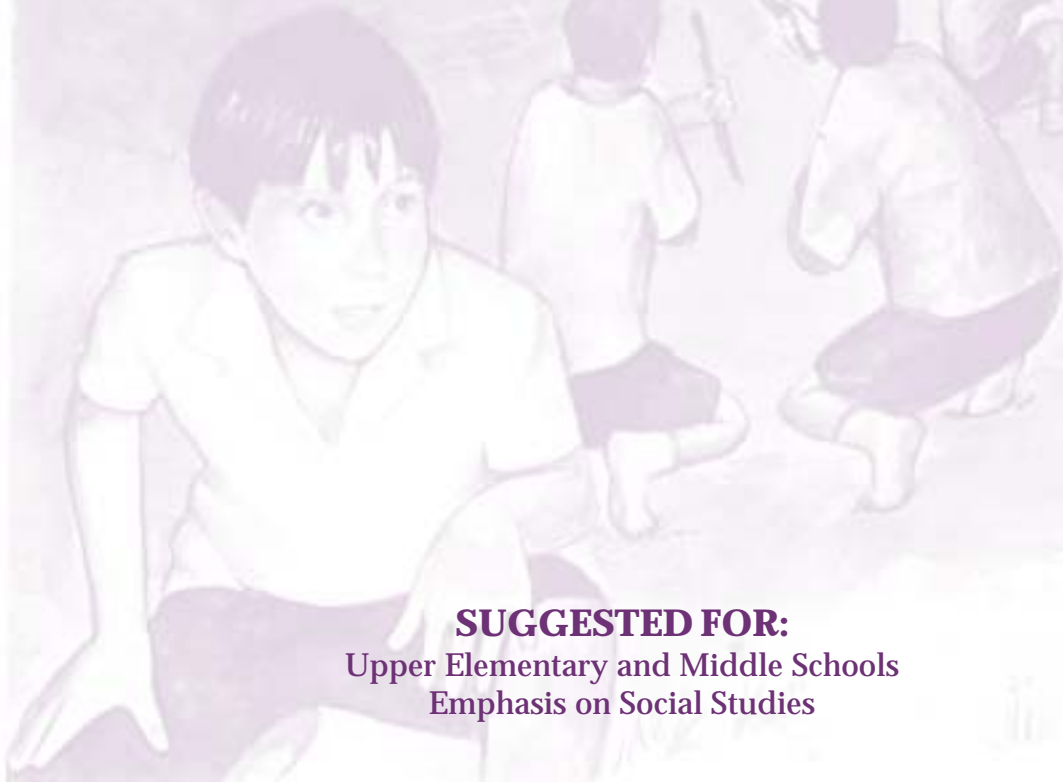
produced by  
SANDLAPPER PUBLISHING CO., INC.

ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA 29115  
[www.sandlapperpublishing.com](http://www.sandlapperpublishing.com)

## SUMMARY

“A weekend camping trip at Ninety Six National Historic Site should be fund,” thinks David Peeples. His friend Bernard then comes up with a secret plan for some midnight excitement. The plan backfires and fun turns into a nightmare as the adventurers find themselves deep in the woods and even deeper in trouble. David’s friend Jill and her “shadow” Frannie try to help—but they only make matters worse.

The old Star Fort offers bold campers an unforgettable experience.



**SUGGESTED FOR:**  
Upper Elementary and Middle Schools  
Emphasis on Social Studies

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR READING *Trouble at Star Fort*

---

Fill in the blanks.

- Patriots
- Andrew Pickens
- South Carolina
- Concord, Massachusetts
- Kings Mountain
- Andrew Williamson
- British
- Loyalists
- Francis Marion
- Paul Revere
- Colonists
- Thomas Sumter
- Ninety Six
- James Birmingham
- Cowpens
- Nathanael Greene
- Tories
- Americans

1. The American Revolution was fought between the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Although the two countries were at war, almost all of the soldiers who fought on both sides were \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Americans who fought for their freedom against the British called themselves \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The British and Americans who were loyal to the King of England called themselves \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes they were referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The first shot fired in the American Revolution was at \_\_\_\_\_ on April 19, 1775. It was said to be “the shot heard around the world.”
6. The legendary figure who rode to sound the alarm that the British were coming was \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The first land battle of the Revolution in the South took place at \_\_\_\_\_ in 1775. The Patriot in command was Major \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The first Patriot to give his life in South Carolina for the cause of freedom was \_\_\_\_\_.
9. More battles were fought in \_\_\_\_\_ during the Revolution than in any other state.
10. Some battle sites in South Carolina other than Ninety Six are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
11. General \_\_\_\_\_ was put in charge of the Continental army.
12. Other southern leaders of the American Revolution were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers:

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR READING *Trouble at Star Fort*

1. The American Revolution was fought between the Colonists and the British.
2. Although the two countries were at war, almost all of the soldiers who fought on both sides were American.
3. Americans who fought for their freedom against the British called themselves Patriots.
4. The British and Americans who were loyal to the King of England called themselves Loyalists. Sometimes they were referred to as Tories.
5. The first shot fired in the American Revolution was at Concord, Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. It was said to be “the shot heard around the world.”
6. The legendary figure who rode to sound the alarm that the British were coming was Paul Revere.
7. The first land battle of the Revolution in the South took place at Ninety Six in 1775. The Patriot in command was Major Andrew Williamson.
8. The first Patriot to give his life in South Carolina for the cause of freedom was James Birmingham.
9. More battles were fought in South Carolina during the Revolution than in any other state.
10. Some battle sites in South Carolina other than Ninety Six are Cowpens and Kings Mountain.
11. General Nathanael Greene was put in charge of the Continental army.
12. Other southern leaders of the American Revolution were Andrew Pickens, Thomas Sumter, and Francis Marion.

## WORD SEARCH FOR "REAL" PEOPLE AND PLACES

(Words may be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal.)

U	V	J	H	O	E	F	E	F	R	B	A	A	F	O	N	E	S	S
P	A	T	R	I	O	T	O	R	M	N	N	C	C	P	A	H	W	T
C	O	R	W	I	L	B	I	R	M	I	N	G	H	A	M	E	T	A
O	R	Y	C	O	R	N	W	A	L	L	I	S	E	N	N	D	E	R
U	P	A	N	T	R	A	A	O	A	L	S	O	T	E	C	C	E	F
N	I	N	G	E	O	T	R	H	N	O	L	U	E	M	H	H	R	O
T	H	A	T	R	B	A	L	U	T	Y	A	R	E	Y	K	E	O	R
R	O	N	P	I	C	K	E	N	S	A	G	E	I	G	E	R	R	T
Y	U	N	O	H	C	E	L	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S	O	N	A
H	X	M	T	U	W	D	I	A	E	I	K	S	O	S	U	K	E	E
S	O	U	V	O	Y	E	S	A	S	S	C	L	K	C	I	E	E	K
K	O	W	E	E	R	A	N	N	O	T	A	A	Z	S	O	E	D	Y
S	O	K	C	K	T	A	A	I	L	L	A	N	G	S	T	O	N	A
W	L	N	P	I	H	N	T	S	E	V	U	D	O	U	B	L	T	R
B	I	E	S	T	B	O	U	D	E	R	R	F	O	N	E	T	Y	D
P	S	T	A	G	R	E	H	A	N	G	G	O	U	E	D	Y	O	N
G	E	N	I	N	E	T	Y	S	I	X	C	R	U	G	E	R	E	N
I	U	G	E	R	A	L	S	T	I	S	T	D	O	U	B	R	I	S
H	U	K	O	S	C	I	U	S	Z	K	O	P	A	T	I	S	T	R

**Circle the underlined words.**

Andrew Pickens

Andrew Williamson

Charles Cornwallis

Cherokee Trail

Dicey Langston

Emily Geiger

George Hunter

Henry Lee (Light-Horse Harry)

Island Ford Road

John Harris Cruger

James Birmingham

Keowee

Loyalist

Nathanael Greene

Ninety Six National Historic District

Patriot

redoubt

Robert Gouedy

South Carolina

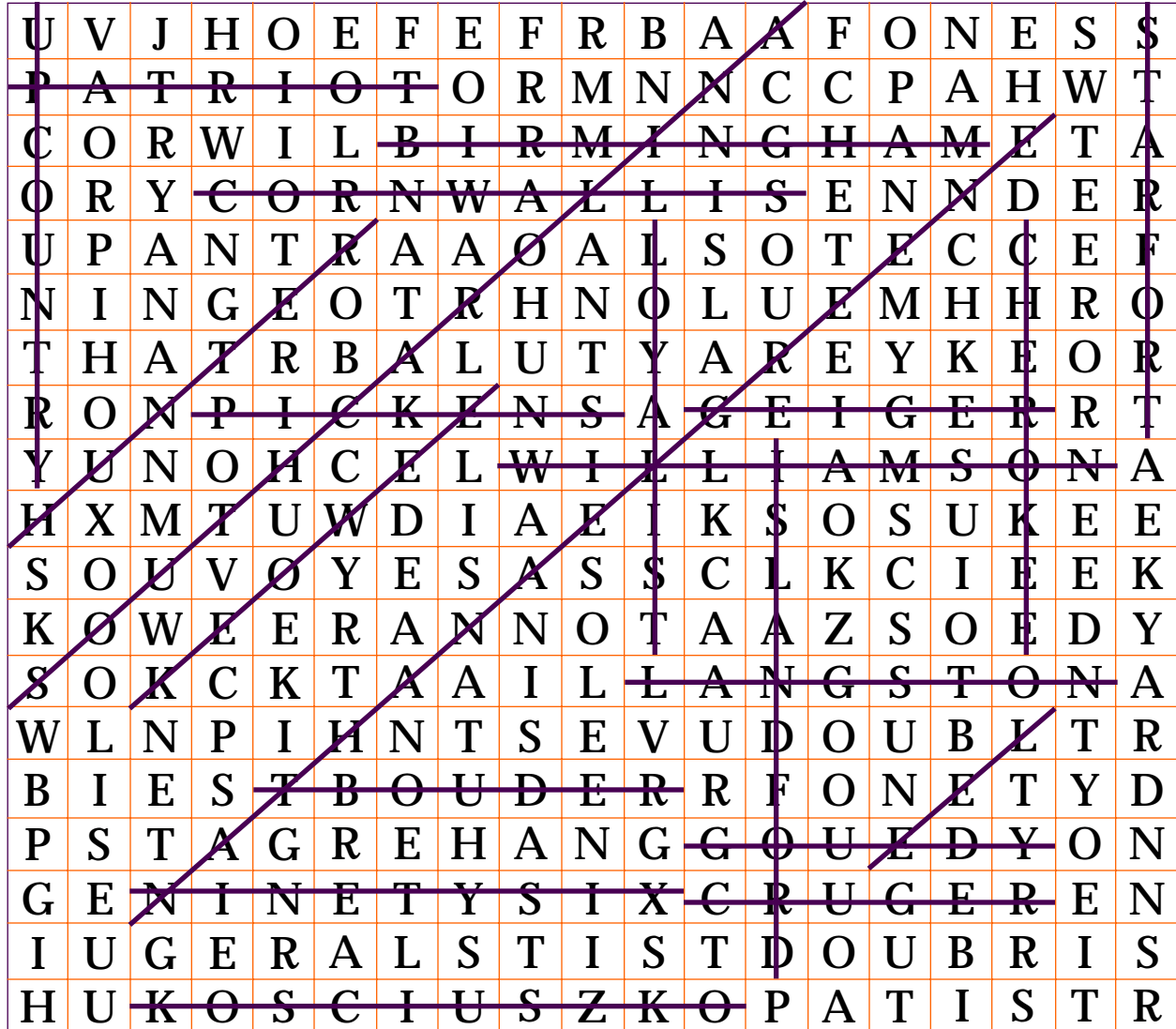
Star Fort

Thaddeus Kosciuszko

Up Country

Answers:

### WORD SEARCH FOR "REAL" PEOPLE AND PLACES



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

---

**This list of activities can be easily integrated into the total learning program.**

- 1.** Draw a map of South Carolina. Mark the Cherokee Path. Add Keowee, Ninety Six, and Charles Town. Add any other places or rivers that were important to Indians and early settlers.
- 2.** Explain how Mr. Eldon said Ninety Six got its name.
- 3.** Write a descriptive paragraph on Star Fort.
- 4.** Construct a model of Star Fort.
- 5.** Explain the strategy of the siege lines made by the Patriots. What were the problems of Greene's men? Of the soldiers inside the fort?
- 6.** Why is the battle of Star Fort considered an important battle even though the American Patriots lost? (Include the turn of the war that took place shortly afterwards.)
- 7.** Research to find other battles in which Greene fought. Include his death and honors. Read *Quaker Commander*.
- 8.** Research archeological diggings and restorations of battlefields. Give an oral or written report of your findings.
- 9.** Visit the National Historic Site of Ninety Six, located on S.C. Highway 248, two miles south of the present-day town of Ninety Six.
- 10.** Read about Dicey Langston and Emily Geiger in *South Carolina Women, The Secret Message* (about Geiger), and *Spunky Revolutionary War Heroine* (about Langston) and write about their efforts to help the Patriots' cause.
- 11.** Research and make a report of the battle of Sullivan's Island mentioned on page 50. Include William Jasper. Read *The Man Who Loved the Flag*.
- 12.** In Chapter 7 Jill recalled a story she remembered from Greek mythology. Tell your favorite Greek myth.
- 13.** In the same chapter the scouts study the constellations above their campfire. Write or tell about your favorite constellation.
- 14.** In Chapter 9 the girls walk the nature trail. Write a brief report on the Carolina wren.
- 15.** How might information in the "Stalking" chapter help you in a real-life situation?

- 16.** Explain the process of making butter.
- 17.** Improve your vocabulary by making flash cards of words on index cards. Rather than writing the definition on the back, draw a picture of something that would trigger the meaning for you.
- 18.** Write skits of scenes of your choice from the book. Select classmates to take parts.
- 19.** Look up poems about the American Revolution. Practice reading one and perform for the class. Consider “The Song of Marion’s Men” by William Cullen Bryant.
- 20.** Bring in paintings inspired by the Revolution. Explain the artist’s intent.

### **Critical Thinking Questions:**

- 1.** Based on what you have read, would you have remained loyal to the King of England or joined the Patriots in their fight for freedom? Why?
- 2.** At the beginning of the book, everybody seems to have a bad opinion of D. J.? Why do you think this is so?
- 3.** Why do you think D. J. changed his attitude toward hearing about the American Revolution?
- 4.** With which fictional character in the book can you most identify? Why do you think this is so?
- 5.** Have you ever participated in a reenactment of some historical happening? How did you feel?
- 6.** If you had to choose scouts to play the parts of the soldiers, would you have assigned the same ones as Bernard? If not, explain your reasoning.
- 7.** What do the actions of some of the characters in this book say about friendship?
- 8.** If you had been in Mr. Eldon’s place, do you think you would have reacted as he did about the “trouble”? Do you like him as a person?
- 9.** On page 53 Mr. Eldon said we should all be “guardians of our heritage.” What did he mean? Do you agree?
- 10.** Can you understand how and why David said he was glad he played the part of Nathanael Greene in the reenactment?

## VOCABULARY NEEDED FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY IN *Trouble at Star Fort*

PAGE	WORD USED IN BOOK	DEFINITION
3	<b>primitive</b> , <i>isolated area</i>	—(in this case) without modern conveniences
11	<b>uncharted</b> <i>area</i>	—not developed
24	<b>zigzagging</b> <i>trenches</i>	—in a series of turns in opposite directions
28	<b>strategic victors</b>	—the side who planned the cleverest military moves
38	<i>military ingenuity</i>	—skill
65	<b>stockade</b>	—an enclosure for military prisoners
67	<i>earthen redoubt</i>	—a kind of fort
67	<b>garrison</b>	—troops stationed in a fort
68	<b>designate</b>	—point out
69	<i>hot little skirmishes</i>	—brief fights between small groups
69	<b>omen</b>	—a sign of bad luck
71	<b>barricade</b> <i>of tree branches</i>	—a thing that prevents passage
71	<b>parapet</b>	—a wall, bank, or rail used to screen troops from the enemy
71	<b>mortal</b> <i>wound</i>	—deadly

### Additional vocabulary:

2	<b>enunciate</b> <i>slowly and deliberately</i>	—speak with attention to pronunciation
4	<b>exorcising</b> <i>the ghost</i>	—driving “it” away
5	<b>oblivious</b> <i>to it all</i>	—unaware of surroundings
6	<b>engrossed</b> <i>in his book</i>	—absorbed; having all his attention in one place
9	<b>methodical</b> <i>way of speaking</i>	—in an orderly way
12	<i>said</i> <b>sarcastically</b>	—(in this case) in a fully but hurtful manner
14	<b>monotonous</b> <i>tone</i>	—continuing with no change; unvarying
19	<b>pandemonium</b> <i>broke out</i>	—wild disorder
20	<i>worry about the</i> <b>proximity</b> <i>of our water supply</i>	—nearness
21	<i>said</i> <b>dejectedly</b>	—in low spirits
23	<i>voice built in</i> <b>momentum</b>	—force caused by continued movement (in this case, the voice kept getting louder)
24	<i>in</i> <b>retaliation</b>	—the act of returning a wrong for a wrong
27	<b>flippant</b> <i>remark</i>	—silly or disrespectful
29	<i>men of</i> <b>valor</b>	—bravery
29	<i>looking</i> <b>pensively</b>	—as if in deep thought
31	<b>confiscate</b> <b>contraband</b>	—take illegal material
32	<i>frog legs</i> <b>skewered</b> <i>onto a rod</i>	—twisted and fastened
33	<b>previous</b> <i>campers</i>	—earlier; coming before
34	<b>eerie</b> <i>lantern light</i>	—mysteriously frightening
34	<b>joviality</b> <i>continued</i>	—playful fun
36	<i>voices in</i> <b>unison</b>	—concord; harmony; acting as one
37	<b>precisely</b>	—exactly

PAGE	WORD USED IN BOOK	DEFINITION
42	<b>piqued</b> <i>her curiosity</i>	—(in this case) excited (can also mean, made slightly angry)
43	<b>admonished</b> <i>them</i>	—reminded by way of a warning
46	<i>same</i> <b>principle</b>	—method or truth on which ideas are based
47	<b>prey</b>	—an animal or thing hunted
47	<b>hilarious</b>	—foolishly funny
47	<b>vouch</b> <i>for that</i>	—say it's true
49	<b>documented</b> <i>before</i>	—proved by written record
52	<i>loaded with</i> <b>paraphernalia</b>	—collection of things needed for an activity
52	<i>playful</i> <b>antics</b>	—silly or funny actions
54	<i>What in the</i> <b>tarnation?</b>	—(in this case) an expression of extreme surprise (can also mean, anger)
55	<b>wispy</b> <i>trail</i>	—thin or slight
59	<i>won't be</i> <b>incriminated</b>	—made to appear guilty
64	<b>nocturnal</b> <i>creature</i>	—active at night
72	<i>sounded</i> <b>urgent</b>	—as if it needs hurried attention
72	<b>distraught</b> <i>group</i>	—worried
74	<i>like wood</i> <b>nymphs</b>	—nature goddesses
74	<b>emitted</b> <i>a hoot</i>	—gave or sent out
75	<b>keening</b> <i>wail</i>	—(in this case) sharp; piercing
76	<i>feet</i> <b>mired</b>	—stuck, as in mud
77	<b>bleat</b> <i>of fear</i>	—a cry, like that of a sheep or goat
78	<b>conscientious objector</b>	—a person who refuses to take part in a war because does not believe in killing
78	<i>a</i> <b>stroke</b> <i>of light</i>	—a brilliant flash
80	<i>David</i> <b>intervened</b>	—came between to settle an argument
80	<i>his dark</i> <b>silhouette</b>	—outline of his figure
81	<i>in a low,</i> <b>ominous</b> <i>mass</i>	—threatening (in this case, the <i>ominous mass</i> is a storm)
82	<i>paying</i> <b>homage</b> <i>to their king</i>	—honor or respect
84	<i>settled</i> <b>haphazardly</b>	—just any sort of way; not planned
85	<b>traipse</b>	—walk or tramp all over
86	<i>glasses slipped</i> <b>awry</b>	—twisted to one side
89	<i>Bernard's usual</i> <b>monotone</b> <i>speech</i>	—without changing pitch
89	<b>brevity</b>	—the use of few words (Bernard rarely spoke this way.)
94	<i>Mr. Eldon began to</i> <b>fidget</b>	—move about in a restless or nervous way
94	<i>scouts</i> <b>cavorted</b>	—romped or ran about
96	<i>some</i> <b>retribution</b> <i>is needed</i>	—(in this case) repayment (can also mean, punishment)
97	<b>aroma</b> <i>of ham</i>	—good smell

## FINAL CHECKUP

---

### I. Match by number:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| _____ Regulators          | <b>1.</b> commander of Continental army                                      |
| _____ John Cruger         | <b>2.</b> trader and businessman   |
| _____ James Birmingham    | <b>3.</b> men who made their own laws  |
| _____ Thaddeus Kosciuszko | <b>4.</b> given nickname “Light Horse Harry”                                 |
| _____ George Hunter       | <b>5.</b> British officer of Star Fort                                       |
| _____ Cowpens             | <b>6.</b> mastermind behind trenches   |
| _____ Nathanael Greene    | <b>7.</b> a Revolutionary War site   |
| _____ Robert Gouedy       | <b>8.</b> a commander of 1775 battle at Ninety Six                           |
| _____ Andrew Williamson   | <b>9.</b> map maker  |
| _____ Henry Lee           | <b>10.</b> first soldier in South Carolina killed in the American Revolution |

### II. Multiple choice:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Some colonists did not want to go against the King of England because they
- a.** thought they might be defeated
  - b.** were afraid they would lose their land grants
  - c.** felt the tax was fair
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The most famous trading path in South Carolina was the
- a.** Keowee
  - b.** Cherokee
  - c.** Cambridge
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Regulators took the law into their own hands because
- a.** they were outlaws
  - b.** they were not being given a fair trial
  - c.** the nearest officer of the law was in Charles Town
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The main problem inside Star Fort was
- a.** lack of water
  - b.** lack of food
  - c.** illness
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. More Revolutionary War battles were fought in this state than any other:
- a.** South Carolina
  - b.** Massachusetts
  - c.** Georgia

### III. Vocabulary:

Draw a line from each word to the matching definition.

<b>redoubt</b>	low wall or rail on a fort
<b>stockade</b>	small battle
<b>garrison</b>	jail for military prisoners
<b>parapet</b>	fort
<b>skirmish</b>	fort with soldiers

### IV. Composition:

Choose one of the numbers below. Let your topic sentence make your choice obvious. Be sure to make a plan of ideas and get your thoughts organized on scratch paper before you begin writing.

1. Compare the strategy of war during the American Revolution with warfare today.
2. Explain the importance of the Cherokee Path in the early history of our state.
3. Describe Star Fort in detail. Include location.

Answers:

## FINAL CHECKUP

### I. Match by number:

- 3 Regulators (men who made their own laws)
- 5 John Cruger (British officer of Star Fort)
- 10 James Birmingham (first soldier in South Carolina killed in the American Rev.)
- 6 Thaddeus Kosciuszko (mastermind behind trenches)
- 9 George Hunter (map maker)
- 7 Cowpens (a Revolutionary War site)
- 1 Nathanael Greene (commander of Continental army)
- 2 Robert Gouedy (trader and businessman)
- 8 Andrew Williamson (a commander of 1775 battle at Ninety Six)
- 4 Henry Lee (given nickname "Light Horse Harry")

### II. Multiple choice:

1. Some colonists did not want to go against the King of England because they  
**b. were afraid they would lose their land grants**
2. The most famous trading path in South Carolina was the  
**b. Cherokee**
3. The Regulators took the law into their own hands because  
**c. the nearest officer of the law was in Charles Town**
4. The main problem inside Star Fort was  
**a. lack of water**
5. More Revolutionary War battles were fought in this state than any other:  
**a. South Carolina**

### III. Vocabulary:

Draw a line from each word to the matching definition.

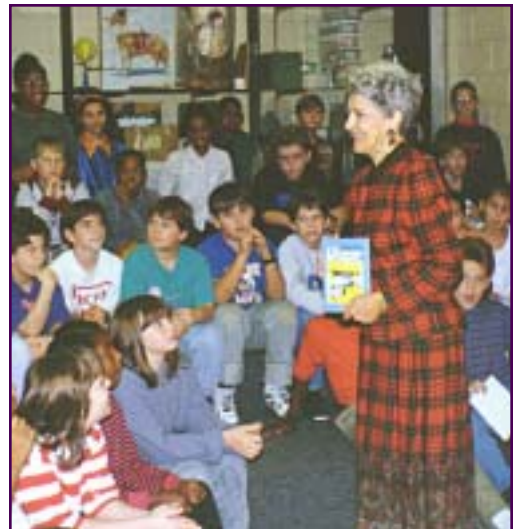
- |                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>redoubt</b>  | — <b>fort</b>                        |
| <b>stockade</b> | — <b>jail for military prisoners</b> |
| <b>garrison</b> | — <b>fort with soldiers</b>          |
| <b>parapet</b>  | — <b>low wall or rail on a fort</b>  |
| <b>skirmish</b> | — <b>small battle</b>                |

## About the Author

"I grew up on a farm near the small town of Ridge Spring, South Carolina. Years during the 1930s etched indelible memories of the Great Depression in my mind. I have gathered many of those memories, as well as ones from World War II, to show 'the way things were then.'

"My mother's gift for storytelling and her host of friends and relatives fed me words to use with my imaginary friends. Soaking in sights, sounds, and smells of my young world gave me a 'writer's eye' and left me with a burning desire to record my world. Pencil and paper were magical tools."

—Idella Bodie



## Other Books by Idella Bodie



CAROLINA GIRL:  
A WRITER'S BEGINNING



GHOST IN THE CAPITOL \*

GHOST TALES FOR RETELLING



A HUNT FOR LIFE'S EXTRAS:  
THE STORY OF ARCHIBALD RUTLEDGE



THE MYSTERY OF EDISTO ISLAND

THE MYSTERY OF THE PIRATE'S  
TREASURE \*



SACRED VISION  
• Teacher's guide available.

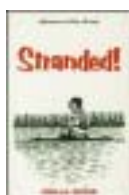


THE SECRET OF TELFAIR INN \*

SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN



STRANDED!



WHOPPER  
• Creative writing guide available.

\* S.C. Book Award nominees



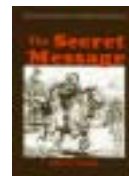
"History, geography, folklore, and moral questions are woven skillfully into the stories. . . If you're weary of books that have no more substance than chewing gum and your children are leery of 'educational' books that preach or drag drearily to a predictable conclusion, sample one of Idella's books."—*Marietta Daily Journal*

To purchase copies of Idella Bodie's books,  
contact your local bookstore or visit these web sites:  
[www.thereadingsource.com](http://www.thereadingsource.com) or  
[www.sandlapperpublishing.com](http://www.sandlapperpublishing.com).

## HEROES AND HEROINES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION \*



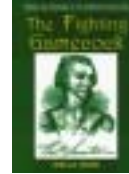
THE MAN WHO LOVED THE FLAG  
• William Jasper



THE SECRET MESSAGE  
• Emily Geiger



THE REVOLUTIONARY SWAMP FOX  
• Francis Marion



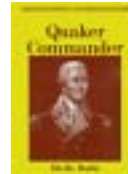
THE FIGHTING GAMECOCK  
• Thomas Sumter



SPUNKY REVOLUTIONARY WAR  
HEROINE  
• Laodicea "Dicey" Langston



THE COURAGEOUS PATRIOT  
• Rebecca Motte



QUAKER COMMANDER  
• Nathanael Greene



BRAVE BLACK PATRIOTS



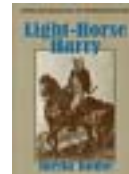
THE OLD WAGONER  
• Daniel Morgan



THE WIZARD OWL  
• Andrew Pickens



HEROINES OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION



LIGHT-HORSE HARRY  
• Henry Lee

TEACHER'S GUIDE  
• Free with classroom sets of the series.

*Series Honors:* Outstanding Patriot Award from The Cambridge Chapter of the South Carolina Chapter of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Certificate of Award for Excellence in Community Service from the South Carolina Chapter of The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.