



# The Red Badge of Courage



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STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS  
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## What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



**H**ave you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book

you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. Henry says that he feels like the government forced him to join the army. Why do you think he feels this way? Have you ever been forced to do something you didn't want to do?

2. Did it surprise you that Henry fired the first shot of the battle? Did you expect him to fight or run before the battle started? What would you have done in his place?

3. Henry never seems to be able to make up his mind about how he feels. Have you ever known anyone like him?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

4. Henry is scared that the dead man in the forest will stand up and run after him. Why do you think he is worried about this? What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you?

5. Why do you think the tattered man's question bothers Henry so much? How would you have reacted if you were in his position?

6. Why do you suppose the soldier helps Henry find his way back to his troop? Have you ever helped a stranger? Why did you do it?

7. Henry and Wilson both find that they have been changed by their experiences in the war. Have you ever had an experience that changed you? What was it?

8. How does hearing himself called a "mule driver" affect Henry? How would you feel if you were insulted like that? Have you ever overheard something you shouldn't have?

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9. Henry runs away from the second battle. Do you think he was right to do so? What would you have done in his situation?

10. By the end of the book, Henry is seen as a man of courage and honor. Do you agree with this? How would you describe Henry?