

The Silent Witness

Activity: Read The Silent Witness, have the students think back on the events of the Civil War. Pick one specific event, have the students put themselves in that place with their own “silent witness”.

Objective: This activity is one that will pull writing into Social Studies but can also assess the students to see what they learned and remembered about a specific event that occurred during the Civil War.

1. Read the book The Silent Witness a True Story of the Civil War by Robin Friedman to the class.
2. As you are reading the book stop and make a list of events that occurred during the Civil War on the board. After reading the book brainstorm other events that were not specifically talked about in the book.
 - Lincoln’s Election
 - Southern States Secession
 - Battle Petersburg (Crater Explosion)
 - Battle Fredericksburg (Martha Stevenson house)
 - Battle of Manassas/Bull Run
 - Battle of Gettysburg
 - Brown’s Island Explosion
 - Appomattox
 - Fort Sumter
3. Have the students pick one of the events from the list. Students should write it down on their paper.
4. Talk to students about what a *silent witness* is, or could be to them.
 - a. Example: doll, stuffed animal, book, block, drum, ect...
5. Students write a short story of their own *Silent Witness* and what even it witnessed during the Civil War.
6. Students will then get on the program TinkerCad and design a replica of the item that witnessed the major event during the war.

*Students can work on their own story or work with a partner.

Silent Witness: Civil War

Name: _____

Date: _____

Based on the book, Silent Witness a True Story of the Civil War pick your own Silent Witness. Then pick a Civil War event. Put yourself in the shoes of a child affected by the Civil War. Tell the story of the war through your own Silent Witness.

Who/What is your Silent Witness: _____

Civil War Event: _____

Story: