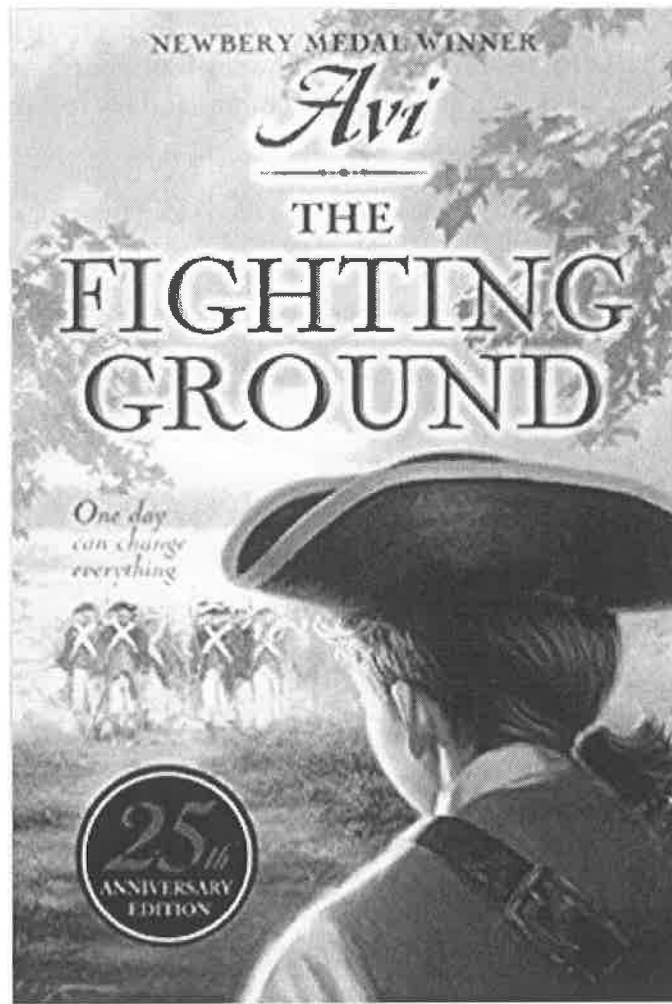


# EVCS SUMMER WORK

## INCOMING 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CLASS



YOUR ASSIGNED BOOK FOR THIS SUMMER IS *THE FIGHTING GROUND*.

YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE YOUR READING AND READING GUIDE (ATTACHED) BY **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU READ ALL OF THE DIRECTIONS IN YOUR READING GUIDE.

YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE YOUR FINAL PROJECT BY **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**. THERE WILL BE TIME DURING ELA FOR YOU TO WORK ON THIS.

CONTACT MS. BURKE AT [SBURKE@ELMWOODVILLAGESCHOOL.ORG](mailto:sburke@elmwoodvillageschool.org) WITH ANY QUESTIONS. THANK YOU!

## THE FIGHTING GROUND

April 3, 1778. America is caught up in the Revolutionary War. On this warm spring morning, not far from Trenton, New Jersey, a 13-year-old boy and his father are quietly tilling the sod on their farm. But the boy can think of only one thing: He wants to fight. He knows how to use a gun-why won't his father let him go?

Unexpectedly, the quiet is cut by the sound of a bell-an alarm ringing from the nearby tavern. Jonathan is sent to find out what the trouble is. What he finds in the next twenty-four hours, when he does fight and is taken prisoner by three Hessian soldiers, changes his understanding of war and life forever. The real war, he discovers, is being fought within himself.

This swiftly paced adventure story of a battle-within-a-battle is told by Avi in stark detail, with vivid historical settings and breathtaking action.

**\*GLOSSARY IS ATTACHED AT THE END OF PACKET YOU NEED TO  
CHOOSE 25 OF THE WORDS TO PUT INTO SENTENCES\***

**STEP 1 –PAGES 1-15 (APRIL 3, 1778: 9:58-11:00)**

Directions: Answer the questions below after you finish reading the “Pages 1-15 (April 3, 1778: 9:58-11:00).”

1. Why do you think Jonathan’s father “put him off” (says no) to Jonathan becoming a soldier?

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2. What is the importance of the bell?

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3. What kind of soldier will Jonathan make? What qualities make him a soldier? Use details from the text.

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4. What questions would you like to ask Jonathan?

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**STEP 2 – PAGES 16–37 (APRIL 3, 1778: 11:30–2:30)**

Directions: Answer the questions below after you finish reading “Pages 16-37 (April 3, 1778: 11:30-2:30).”

1. What is the goal of the militia that Jonathan joined?

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2. In the section 12:50, what causes the men to be fearful? Use a quote from the text in your answer.

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3. How has Avi used the sounds of war on pages 35-37 to increase the tension?

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4. How does Jonathan feel about the possibility of fighting? Use a quote from the text in your answer.

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**STEP 3 --PAGES 38-56 (APRIL 3, 1778: 2:35-3:38)**

Directions: Answer the questions below after you finish reading "Pages 38-56 (April 3, 1778: 2:35-3:38)."

1. What is the Americans' plan of attack?

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2. Why does Jonathan cry? (3:16)

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3. Explain Jonathan's thought, "Alive, he wished he were dead, but not being dead, he was scared that he might die."

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**STEP 4 – PAGES 57–75 (APRIL 3, 1778: 3:47–5:30)**

Directions: Answer the questions below after you finish reading “pages 57-75 (April 3, 1778: 3:47-5:30).”

1. Do the Hessians treat Jonathan fairly? Use details from the text.

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2. What are Jonathan’s feelings towards the Hessians? As soldiers, do they have anything in common with each other?

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3. Why does Jonathan feel the Hessians may be his only friends?

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4. What would it mean if the Corporal was nearby?

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**STEP 5 – PAGES 76–91 (APRIL 3, 1778: 5:40–6:45)**

Directions: Answer the questions below after you finish reading “pages 76-91 (April 3, 1778: 5:40-6:45).”

1. Use a quote from the text to describe the condition of the boy. (p.80) Why is he alone? Why doesn't he answer Jonathan?

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2. How do the soldiers react to seeing the little boy?

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3. Do you think the Hessians are responsible for the parents? Do you think the boy understands what has happened to him?

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**STEP 6 – PAGES 92-109 (APRIL 3, 1778: 7:00-10:10)**

Directions: Answer the questions below after you finish reading “Pages 92-109 (April 3, 1778: 7:00-10:10)”

1. How does Jonathan get help with the burial? How does the young one help?

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2. Do you believe Jonathan could kill the Hessian soldiers? What would you do finding yourself free?

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3. What is Jonathan’s plan and how does it involve the Corporal?

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**STEP 7 – PAGES 110– 123 (APRIL 3, 1778: 10:15–11:50)**

Directions: Answer the questions below after you finish reading “Pages 110- 123 (April 3, 1778: 10:15-11:50).”

1. How do the men and the Corporal react when Jonathan finds them? What do they think of his story?

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2. Why do you think the boy is trembling when he looks at the Corporal?

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3. Make a prediction about how the book will end.

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**STEP 8 – PAGES 125–134 (APRIL 4, 1778: 12:30–5:30)**

Directions: Answer the questions below after you finish reading “Pages 125-134 (April 4, 1778: 12:30-5:30).”

1. Could any of the outcomes have been different if they all spoke the same language? Explain.

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2. If their plan is too risky for the men, why isn't it too risky for Jonathan?

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**STEP 9 – PAGES 134–152 (APRIL 4, 1778: 5:35–10:30)**

Directions: Answer the questions below after you finish reading “Pages 110- 123 (April 3, 1778: 10:15-11:50).”

1. Do you believe that if the Hessians gave up, the Corporal would have spared their lives? Why or why not?

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2. Both sides used Jonathan. Explain

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3. 24 hours ago, Jonathan thought of “glory” and prays, “Lord, make it something grand.” How has he changed?

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★ Directions: Choose 25 words from this list + put them in a sentence. ✱

The Fighting Ground Vocabulary

By Avi

Vocabulary	Page	Definition	Sentence
Pivoting	3:47	Verb. A whirling about on one foot.	Pivoting on his heels.
Hessian	3:47	Noun. A native or inhabitant of Hesse.	He discovered a third Hessian.
regiment	3	Noun. Military. A unit of battle ground forces.	He joined the regiment.
tyrannical	4	Adj. of or characteristic of a tyrant	
mercenary	4	Noun. A professional soldier hired to serve in a foreign army.	
flintlock	4	Noun. An outmoded gunlock in which a piece of flint striking against steel produces sparks that ignite the priming.	
musket	4	Noun. A heavy, large-caliber smoothbore gun for infantry soldiers, from the 16 <sup>th</sup> century.	
primed	4	Adj. of the first importance, demanding the fullest consideration.	

hoe	5	Noun. A long-handled implement having a thin, flat blade used to break up the surface of the ground, destroy weed.	
queer	6	Adj. Not feeling physically right or well.	
unveiled	6	Adj. not hidden by a veil or other covering; bare	
copse	6	Noun. A thicket of small trees or bushes; a small wood.	
vaulted	7	Verb. To extend or stretch over in the manner of an arch; overarch.	
fretting	7	Verb. To feel or express worry, annoyance, discontent, or the like;	
militia	11	Noun. A body of citizens enrolled for military service, and called out periodically for drill but serving full time only in emergencies.	
tankard	13	Noun. A large drinking cup, usually with a handle and hinged cover.	

glowered	14	Verb. To look or stare with sullen dislike, discontent or anger.	
ramrod	17	Noun. A rod for ramming down the charge of a muzzleloading firearm.	
inadvertently	19	Adj. failing to act carefully or considerately; inattentive.	
hastened	19	Verb. To move or act with haste; hurry	
tavern	19	Noun. A place where liquor are sold to be consumed on the premises.	
Corporal	20	Noun. A noncommissioned officer ranking above a private first class in the US Army.	
furtive	21	Adj. Characterized by stealth; sly and secretive.	
Meandering	25	Verb. To proceed by or take a winding or indirect course.	
reluctantly	26	Adv. Unwilling; disinclined.	

Clustered	28	Noun. A number of things of the same kind, growing or held together; a bunch.	
quarry	29	Noun. An excavation or pit, usually open to the air, from which building stone, slate, or the like, is obtained by cutting, blasting, etc.	
scrutiny	29	Noun. A searching examination or investigation; minute inquiry.	
Merci	29	Interjection. French. Thank you.	
absorb	30	Verb. To involve the full attention of; to engross or engage wholly.	
Crimson	31	Adj. deep purplish red.	
Palisades	33	Noun. The line of cliffs in NE New Jersey and SE New York extending along the W bank of the lower Hudson River. About 15 miles long; 300-500 feet high.	



Monotonously	35	Adj. characterizing a sound continuing on one note.	
squeal	35	Verb. To utter or emit a squeal. A loud sound.	
fife	35	Noun. A high-pitched transverse flute used commonly in military and marching musical groups.	
slyly	35	Adv. In a deceitful manner; mischievous way.	
brittle	35	Adj. lacking warmth, sensitivity, or compassion; aloof; self centered.	
grotesque	36	Adj. odd or unnatural in shape, appearance, or character; fantastically ugly or absurd; bizarre.	
agitated	37	Adj. excited; disturbed.	
maneuver	39	Noun. A planned and regulated movement or evolution of troops, warships, etc.	

frantic	39	Adj. desperate or wild with excitement, passion, fear, pain, etc.	
waveringly	40	Verb. To sway to and fro.	
spittle	40	Noun. Saliva, spit.	
priming	40	Noun. The powder or other material used to ignite a charge.	
bayonet	41	Noun. A daggerlike steel weapon that is attached to or at the muzzle of a gun and used for stabbing or slashing in hand to hand combat.	
hefted	43	Verb. To test the weight of by lifting and balancing.	
glistening	43	Verb. To reflect a sparkling light or a faint intermittent glow; shine lustrously.	
muzzle	47	Noun. The mouth, or end for discharge, of the barrel of a gun, pistol, etc.	

prickle	47	Verb. To cause a pricking or tingling sensation in.	
hysteria	48	Noun. An uncontrollable outburst of emotion or fear, often characterized by irrationally, laughter, weeping, etc.	
welled	48	Noun. An apparent reservoir or a source of human feelings, emotions, energy, etc.	
percussion	48	Noun. The striking of one body against another with some sharpness; impact; blow.	
plume	52	Noun. An area in air, water, soil, or rock containing pollutants released from a single source. It often spreads in the environment due to the action of the wind, current or gravity.	

linchpin	53	Noun. Something that holds the various elements of a complicated structure together.	
immense	54	Adj. vast; huge, very great.	
fragmentary	54	Adj. consisting of or reduced to fragments; broken; disconnected; incomplete.	
grenadier	57	Noun. (In the British army) a member of the first regiment of household infantry.	
riveted	57	Verb. To hold (the eye, attention, etc) firmly.	
scrutinized	59	Verb. To examine in detail with careful or critical attention.	
triumphantly	60	Adj. having achieved victory or success; victorious; successful.	
baffled	61	Adj. to confuse, bewilder or perplex.	
exasperated	61	Verb. To irritate or provoke to a high degree; annoy extremely.	

humiliation	63	Noun. The act of causing a person a painful loss of pride, self-respect or dignity.	
torrential	66	Adj. pouring or flowing fast, violently or heavily. Torrential rain.	
menacing	66	Verb. To utter or direct a treat against; threaten	
vaulting	68	Verb. To extend or stretch over in the manner of an arch; overarch	
perplexed	71	Adj. bewildered; puzzled.	
elaborate	74	Adj. worked out with great care and nicety of detail.	
distress	74	Noun. Great pain, anxiety, or sorrow; acute physical or mental suffering; affliction; trouble.	
affixed	74	Verb. To fasten, join or attach (usually followed by to).	
entangled	75	Verb. To make tangled.	

bleated	75	Verb. To utter the cry of a sheep, goat, or calf or sound resembling such a cry.	
chinked	76	Verb. To make, or cause to make, a short, sharp, ringing sound, as of coins or glasses striking together.	
impassive	77	Adj. without emotion; apathetic; unmoved.	
sagged	77	Verb. To sink or bend downward by weight or pressure, especially in the middle.	
hoarse	77	Adj. having a vocal tone; making a harsh, low sound.	
hearth	78	Noun. The floor of a fireplace, usually of stone, brick, etc.	
meager	78	Adj. deficient in quantity or quality; lacking fullness or richness.	
curtly	78	Adj. rudely brief in speech or abrupt in manner.	
quizzically	79	Adv. Odd, queer or comical. Questioning or puzzled.	

camaraderie	79	Noun. Comradeship; good fellowship.	
filthy	80	Adj. disgustingly or completely dirty.	
impulsively	81	Adv. Inclined or tending to act on impulse rather than thought.	
suspected	82	Verb. To believe to be guilty, false, counterfeit, defective, bad, etc. with little or no proof	
dreary	86	Adj. causing, sadness or gloom. Dull, boring. Sorrowful; sad.	
hearth	87	Noun. The floor of a fireplace, usually of stone, brick, etc.	
encroaching	90	Verb. To advance beyond proper, established, or usual limits; make gradual inroads.	
immobile	91	Adj. incapable of moving or being moved.	
callousness	92	Adj. insensitive; indifferent; unsympathetic	
brusquely	95	Adj. abrupt in manner; blunt; rough	

sullenly	95	Adj. showing irritation or ill humor by a gloomy silence or reserve.	
groped	95	Verb. To feel about with his hands; feel one's way.	
retched	98	Verb. To make efforts to vomit.	
sprawled	100	Verb. To be stretched or spread out in an unnatural or ungraceful manner.	
wedged	100	Adj. having the shape of a wedge.	
deliberately	100	Adj. carefully weighed or considered; studied; intentional	
scurrying	102	Verb. To go or move quickly or in haste.	
vaguest	107	Adj. not clearly or explicitly stated or expressed	
silhouettes	109	Noun. The outline or general shape of something.	
accusation	113	Noun. A charge or wrongdoing; imputation or guilt or blame.	



devoured	114	Verb. To swallow or eat up hungrily, voraciously, or ravenously	
fatigue	114	Noun. Weariness from bodily or mental exertion	
suspicion	115	Noun. The act of suspecting.	
unease	120	Adj. not easy in body or mind; uncomfortable; restless; disturbed	
monstrous	121	Adj. frightful or hideous, especially in appearance; extremely ugly. Extraordinarily great, huge, immense.	
suffocating	121	Verb. To be uncomfortable due to a lack of fresh or cool air.	
revenge	122	Verb. To exact punishment or expiation for a wrong on behalf of, especially in a resentful or vindictive spirit	
civilian	122	Noun. A person who is not on active duty with a military, naval, police, or fire fighting organization.	

executed	122	Verb. To carry out; accomplish; to perform or do.	
swiveled	128	Noun. A fastening device that allows the thing fastened to turn around freely upon it, especially to turn in a full circle.	
tattered	130	Adj. torn to tatters; ragged. Wearing ragged clothing.	
haste	132	Noun. Swiftmess of motion; speed; celerity	
retort	133	Verb. To reply to, usually in a sharp or retaliatory way; reply in kind to.	
stammered	133	Verb. To speak with involuntary breaks and pauses, or with spasmodic repetition of syllables or sounds.	
briskly	136	Adj. quick and active; lively	
stupefaction	142	Noun. The state of being overwhelmed amazement.	

faltered	143	Verb. To hesitate or waver in action, purpose, intent, etc.; give way:	
spasmodically	144	Adj. pertaining to or of the nature of a spasm;	
shrouded	146	Noun. A cloth or sheet in which a corpse is wrapped for burial.	
splintered	147	Noun. A small, thin, sharp piece of wood, bone, or the like, split or broken off from the main body.	
flustered	149	Verb. To put into a state of agitated confusion. Nervous excitement or confusion.	

