

Teaching with Primary Sources Assessment

Grade Level: High School (9-10)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



The Stars and Stripes, January 31, 1919

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/20001931/1919-01-31/ed-1/?sp=5>

Topic Background:

The Stars and Stripes was published in France by the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) of the United States Army from February 8, 1918, to June 13, 1919. General John J. Pershing wanted a newspaper written by servicemen for the soldiers on the battlefield...The newspaper's mission was to strengthen the morale of the troops and to promote unity within the American forces, then widely scattered and fulfilling many apparently unrelated functions. The venture was immediately popular with the soldiers, quickly selling out its first issue of one thousand copies. Although designated as the "official newspaper of the AEF," its independent editorial voice earned the confidence and affection of common soldiers.

Excerpted from: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/stars-and-stripes/about-this-collection/>

Source(s) Used:

The source used in this assessment is an excerpt from *The Stars and Stripes*, published January 31, 1919. It includes excerpts from a satirical article on the paper's mock domestic, entitled "Our Own Women's Page." The author, "Henry," suggests what fashions will be popular in the upcoming Spring.

Answer Key:

Question 1 – C

Question 2 – C

WHAT THE MEN WILL WEAR

Spring Styles Suggested for Swagger Soldiers. (Excerpt).

With the first suggestive chills of winter in the air, it seems a bit daring, doesn't it, to talk about spring styles? But already the know-it-alls have begun to cluster around the Sibley stove and whisper of what will be worn in the A.E.F. ...

I predict many startling and radical changes, but the more conservative members of the A.E.F.. those who expect to extend their European visit...will cling to the old popular olive-drab, or mud-brindle, for inspection and drills, varying this with blues and browns cut in loose, flowing lines, for fatigue and lounging wear.

If the little bird, hopping about the orderly room where the Wise Ones congregate tells me truthfully, there will be one radical change in headgear. In the best circles the tin hat, once so popular among the rollicking young bucks, has been discarded. The less conservative element will substitute the plain black derby or crusher in the States. The latter, however, will not be worn, here with any success.

Another innovation will be a small iron bracelet worn just above the right ankle. It will be seen on the younger set who have spent the winter at the exclusive watering places or the larger cities which they have visited informally and often incognito. Attached to the bracelet be a short chain and ball...

Questions:

1. In this parody piece, the author suggests that "...those who expect to extend their European visit...will cling to the old popular olive-drab or mud-brindle, for inspection and drills...[but] In the best circles the tin hat, once so popular among the rollicking young bucks, has been discarded."

Which statement best reflects the central idea portrayed in these details? (CCSS. RI.9-10.2)

- a. The army is changing the helmets issued to soldiers.
- b. Olive-drab is the "in" color in Europe.
- c. Many, but not all, of the soldiers expect the war to end soon.
- d. The army needs the soldiers to be more serious and focused.

2) The author predicts that:

"Another innovation will be a small iron bracelet worn just above the right ankle. It will be seen on the younger set who have spent the winter at the exclusive watering places or the larger cities which they have visited informally and often incognito. Attached to the bracelet be a short chain and ball..."

What is the significance of the ball-and-chain?

- a. Younger soldiers will be hazed by the older soldiers.
- b. Young soldiers stationed near cities will feel punished when they must return to work.
- c. Misbehaving or AWOL soldiers will be punished for breaking the rules.
- d. Young spies from the army are certain to get caught and imprisoned.