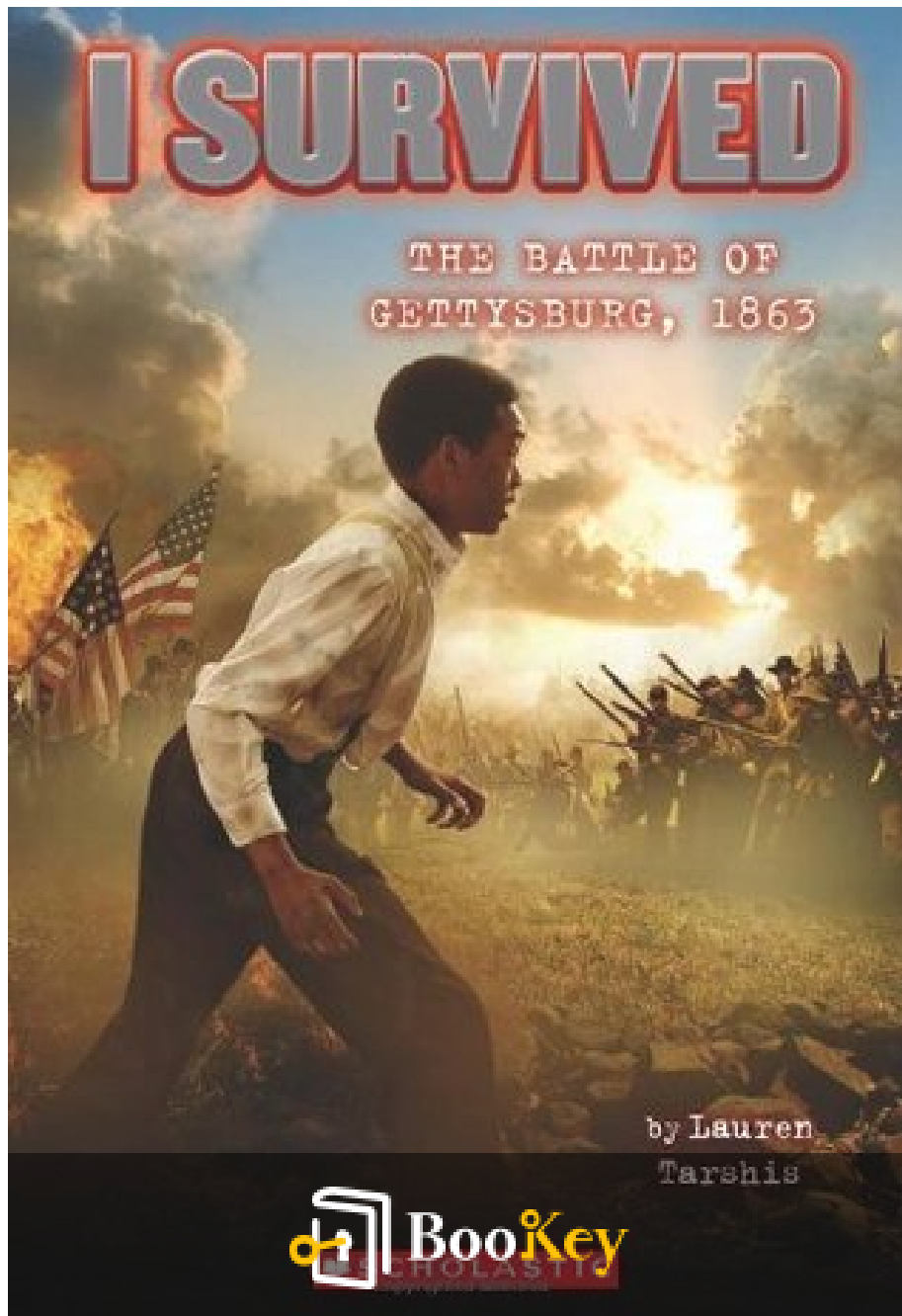


I Survived The Battle Of Gettysburg, 1863 PDF (Limited Copy)

Lauren Tarshis



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I Survived The Battle Of Gettysburg, 1863 Summary

Courage and friendship amid history's darkest moments.

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About the book

In the gripping tale of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863," Lauren Tarshis thrusts readers into the heart of one of the most pivotal battles of the American Civil War, where courage and fear collide amidst the chaos of war. Young readers follow the harrowing journey of a boy named Thomas, who, like thousands of men, must navigate the uncertainty and brutality of battle while grappling with his own survival. As the sounds of cannon fire echo in the distance and the fate of a nation hangs in the balance, Thomas learns valuable lessons about bravery, friendship, and the cost of freedom. This captivating story not only brings historical events to life but also resonates with themes of resilience and hope, making it a must-read for anyone who dares to explore the past.

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About the author

Lauren Tarshis is an accomplished author and journalist best known for her engaging historical fiction series, "I Survived," which captivates young readers with thrilling tales set during significant events in history. With a background in storytelling and a passion for making history accessible, Tarshis combines her keen research skills with imaginative narrative techniques to bring historical figures and events to life. Her dedication to children's literature and education is evident in her work, which not only entertains but also educates young audiences about important moments in history, making her a standout voice in contemporary children's publishing.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

The story begins amidst the chaotic backdrop of the Battle of Gettysburg, a significant and brutal clash during the Civil War. Eleven-year-old Thomas finds himself in the heart of this intense conflict, having recently escaped life as a slave on a Virginia farm. The sounds of cannon fire and the sight of bullets whizzing by create a terrifying atmosphere, and Thomas's mission is clear: he must deliver ammunition to the Northern soldiers who are fighting for his freedom.

Just as he's focused on his task, disaster strikes when a cannonball strikes an ammunition wagon nearby, causing a massive explosion that sends sharp debris flying through the air. Thomas is injured in the chaos, with blood streaming from his forehead and leg, but the instinct to survive drives him to flee the scene. He struggles through the smoke and confusion, desperate to return to his little sister who awaits him in safety.

However, the chaos intensifies as rebel soldiers rush across the field, rifles aimed directly at him. In a heart-stopping moment, Thomas finds himself face to face with an enraged soldier, and as the rifle goes off, he feels the impact in his chest. The scene is vividly portrayed, highlighting Thomas's bravery and the overwhelming fear he faces in the midst of war.

This chapter underscores themes of courage, desperation, and the fight for



freedom, powerfully illustrating how a young boy is thrust into a deadly battle filled with violence and struggle. Thomas's journey from a life of slavery to becoming a part of a significant historical moment captures the challenges and hopes of those fighting for their rights.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

In Chapter 2 of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863," we meet Thomas, a young slave on a farm struggling to survive. As he quietly stalks a squirrel for supper, his little sister Birdie's excited shout disrupts his hunt, causing the squirrel to escape. Birdie, just five years old and full of joy, proudly shows Thomas a muddy green snake she has caught. Her innocence and excitement soften Thomas's frustration, and he admires her ability to find beauty in even the dirtiest things.

However, a shadow looms over their playful moment—Thomas is reminded of the harsh realities of their lives. They were born into slavery, and their mother died on the farm. Their cousin Clem, who had acted as a protector and inspired Thomas with dreams of freedom, was sold away. Clem had filled their imaginations with tales of the North, where slavery did not exist. He had painted pictures of a future where they could be free, like those brave souls who escaped into the darkness guided by the North Star. But now, that hope feels dim since Clem's departure, leaving Thomas with painful memories and a longing for the life they could have had.

As Thomas tries to keep his spirits up for Birdie, she suddenly returns, frightened and breathless, revealing that men are at the farm—the same men who took Clem away. Fear grips Thomas as he hears Mr. Knox calling for him, a man he knows represents danger. With Clem's warning to run echoing



in his mind, Thomas instinctively grabs Birdie's hand. Together, they vanish into the shadowy forest, seeking safety and a chance for freedom. This chapter highlights the themes of hope and resilience amidst despair, emphasizing the bond between siblings and the yearning for freedom in the face of oppression.

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Chapter 3:

In Chapter 3 of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863," we follow Thomas and Birdie as they make a desperate escape from their farm, facing the terrifying threat of slave catchers. Thomas, laden with Birdie on his back, pushes deeper into the dark woods, battling both physical exhaustion and the fear of being captured. The night is alive with sounds—owls hoot, crickets chirp, and unseen animals make eerie noises, heightening the sense of danger that surrounds them.

Thomas recalls the warnings from Clem about the merciless slave catchers, whose fearsome dogs are relentless in tracking down runaways. Despite moments of doubt and the temptation to turn back, Thomas remains determined, knowing the consequences of being caught would be dire—likely involving brutal punishment.

As dawn breaks, Thomas and Birdie find a stream where they can clean themselves, and he tenderly helps her wash up before they search for a safe hiding spot. They settle down near a fallen tree, seeking refuge from the

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Chapter 4 Summary:

In this tense chapter, Birdie and Thomas find themselves hiding in a tree, paralyzed by fear at the sight of approaching soldiers. Thomas tries to comfort Birdie, whispering promises that the men won't hurt them, even though he's shaking with dread himself. As the soldiers close in, Thomas realizes they are not the feared slave catchers but soldiers in gray uniforms, indicating they belong to the Confederate side.

The scene shifts dramatically when one of the soldiers calls out to someone up in the tree, urging them to come down, and a young soldier in a tattered blue uniform appears. It becomes clear that he's a Northern soldier, a "Yankee," but Thomas doesn't fully understand the conflict at play between the North and South.

The atmosphere grows increasingly dangerous when one of the Confederate soldiers, a tall man with a straggly beard, violently assaults the blue soldier, almost killing him in a fit of rage. Thomas watches in horror as the soldier's desperation mirrors the fear Clem, his brother, showed when he was taken away. As the chapter culminates, Thomas's heart races, and a sense of helplessness settles over him, especially when the tall soldier aims his pistol at the blue soldier's head.

The chapter is rich in themes of fear, violence, and the tragic realities of war.



It highlights Thomas's struggle to protect Birdie while grappling with the brutal conflict that's disrupting their lives. The emotions surge as he's forced to witness the cruelty of men at war, making it not just a struggle for survival but also a poignant moment of lost innocence.

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Chapter 5 Summary:

In Chapter 5 of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863" by Lauren Tarshis, Thomas finds himself in a tense and chaotic situation. Amidst the fear and confusion of the battlefield, he notices a skunk and, acting on impulse, grabs it by the tail. This daring move leads to a flurry of chaos as he throws the skunk towards a group of soldiers, sparking panic among both the frightened horses and their handlers. The scene erupts into noise, with men shouting and horses rearing in terror, creating a vivid picture of mayhem.

Thomas tries to ensure Birdie stays safe as he witnesses the chaos unfold, aware that they need to leave quickly. Just as they prepare to escape, the sound of more approaching soldiers fills the air. Corporal Green, an injured soldier, shares his harrowing experience of being attacked by rebel cavalry, heightening the tension as he and his comrades work to regroup.

As the soldiers gather around Corporal Green, a connection forms when the corporal notices Thomas and Birdie hiding nearby. Initially anxious, Thomas feels a rush of relief and camaraderie as Corporal Green introduces Thomas to the group, thanking him for his brave act. The chapter emphasizes themes of courage, quick thinking, and the bonds formed in times of crisis, showcasing Thomas's growth as he navigates his fears and faces the dangers surrounding him. The camaraderie among soldiers and the young boy



illustrates the unexpected ways bravery can shine through, even in the direst circumstances.

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Chapter 6:

The chapter opens with Thomas waking up to the sound of a bugle, surrounded by the hustle and bustle of a Union army camp. He shares a tent with his little sister Birdie, who clutches a handmade doll tightly, showcasing the bond they have through simple yet meaningful possessions. The camp is alive with activity as soldiers prepare for their next battle, creating a sense of camaraderie that envelops Thomas and Birdie, making them feel like they belong for the first time.

Thomas reflects on how the story of him saving a soldier from a skunk has made him somewhat of a local celebrity among the troops, earning him and Birdie respect and friendship. The camp has become a safe haven for them, contrasting sharply with their difficult past. For the first time, Thomas feels a sense of hope and joy. He enjoys helping the soldiers with chores and feels a protective bond with Henry, the corporal who saved his life. Henry has taken on the role of mentor and friend to Thomas, offering him comfort and guidance.

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Alex Walk

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Chapter 7 Summary:

The chapter opens with the men bustling about as they prepare to leave camp, folding tents and packing knapsacks, while the oppressive heat brings out complaints. Young Birdie, however, is in high spirits, dancing around as if heading to a festive occasion. Thomas, eager to help his friend Les with the horses, pays close attention to his surroundings, recalling Clem's wisdom that one learns by listening. This mission has become a valuable learning experience for Thomas, as he absorbs stories shared by the soldiers about their loves, families, and, inevitably, the war.

Amid these interactions, Thomas gains insight into the broader conflict, realizing that the North stands against slavery—something that has been illegal there for years—and that President Lincoln's aim is to eliminate it nationwide. He understands the stakes: if the North wins, slavery could be abolished and the Union preserved. But contemplating a Southern victory fills him with dread.

As the camp is dismantled, he senses the tension among the men. He overhears Les and Homer express their fears that the upcoming battle might mirror the disastrous one at Fredericksburg—a harrowing moment from the past that weighs on their minds. Curious, Thomas seeks clarity from Henry about Fredericksburg, leading to a poignant moment as Henry reflects on that battle. With a distant gaze, he shares the story of that day, imbuing the



narrative with deep emotion and hinting at the challenges they face ahead.

This chapter encapsulates themes of camaraderie, the weight of history, and the heavy burden of war. Thomas, through his observations and conversations, not only grows in understanding of the conflict but also of the human experience behind it—the fears and hopes that accompany each soldier as they march toward an uncertain future.

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Chapter 8 Summary:

In Chapter 8 of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863," Henry recounts the ambitious plans of the Union Army to launch a surprise attack on Fredericksburg, Virginia, with high hopes of capturing the town and moving south to take Richmond. As he explains to Thomas, the Union desperately needed a victory to restore faith among the people in the North, but unbeknownst to them, the Confederate forces, led by the brilliant General Robert E. Lee, were fully aware of their strategy and well-prepared for the assault.

Henry describes the dire situation as Union soldiers advance toward the hills overlooking the town, where Confederate troops and cannons lie in wait. The rebel forces have the advantage of high ground, ensuring that any Union charge would be met with devastating fire. As the assault begins, the sound of cannon fire thunders—a chilling "Kaboom!" resonates as men fall to the ground, casualties of a brutal clash. Despite suffering heavy losses, the Union generals stubbornly continue to send more soldiers into the fray, believing they can achieve success.

Amid the chaos, Henry finds himself facing a terrifying moment while charging forward. His leg becomes stuck, and he discovers it is held fast by a dying Union soldier, who, rather than seeking assistance, is instinctively trying to save Henry from entering the slaughter. It's a poignant reminder of



the horrors of war and the desperate situation of the men on the battlefield. Ultimately, he manages to escape the carnage, but not without witnessing the tremendous toll: 156 of his comrades perished, and over 200 were wounded, leading to an order for retreat that marked a humiliating defeat for the Union.

As the chapter closes, Henry reflects on the gravity of their last fight and the anxiety rippling through the men as they prepare for a new battle. Tomorrow brings uncertainty, but the unshakable resolve to win this fight hangs in the air, mingling with fear as Thomas and his fellow soldiers stand ready. The chapter powerfully illustrates themes of courage, despair, and the heavy burden of military expectations amidst the brutal realities of war.

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Chapter 9:

As the weary soldiers trudged along a dusty road towards Gettysburg, they endured scorching heat, leading some to collapse under the weight of their wool uniforms. Among them, Birdie rode in a wagon with Les and Homer, while Thomas marched with his friend Henry. To pass the time, Henry entertained Thomas with stories about his life back home in Vermont, sharing memories of his parents, their store, and his beloved Mary, a serious-looking girl who was also a teacher. He showed them a treasured book Mary had made, filled with picturesque drawings of their town, including a stunning scene of snow, which made Birdie smile as she imagined it.

Thomas felt a pang of longing as he recalled how his own happiness had dimmed since his brother Clem was taken. Henry's kind words of encouragement, suggesting Thomas might one day write his own letters, gave him a flicker of hope, even though he was painfully aware that learning to read and write was forbidden for slaves. He shared with Henry how Clem had learned to read secretly, sneaking lessons from a sick child's tutor, and

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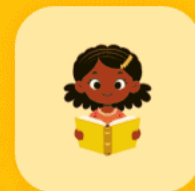
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Chapter 10 Summary:

In Chapter 10 of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863," the tension escalates as Henry and Thomas find themselves in a sudden and chaotic battle. The scene opens with the ground shaking as Rebel cavalry charge down from the hills, prompting panic among the Union soldiers. Captain Campbell, embodying authority and leadership, shouts orders, urging his men to line up for a counterattack. The atmosphere shifts dramatically from the jovial drills they practiced back at camp to a desperate and life-threatening situation. Henry instinctively pulls Thomas down into the grass for safety, showcasing his protective nature.

The Union soldiers respond with urgency and precision, quickly loading and firing their rifles in a well-rehearsed manner, displaying a mix of bravery and fear. The battle is fierce; bullets fly, and chaos reigns as men fall from their horses, with the air thick with gun smoke and dust. Thomas, initially caught up in the urgency of battle, soon feels a wave of panic wash over him when he realizes Birdie is missing amid the turmoil. As he seeks her out, he discovers the overturned wagon, adding to the intensity of his worry as he sees his friends Lester and Homer in disarray.

The search for Birdie becomes a desperate mission for Thomas, highlighting his fierce love and determination. They comb through the area, but despair sinks in when Thomas finds Birdie's doll, marred with blood. This poignant



moment captures not only his fear for Birdie's safety but also underscores the brutal reality of war. The chapter draws on themes of courage, friendship, and the horrors of battle, leaving readers on edge as they await the fate of Birdie and the outcomes of the war.

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Chapter 11 Summary:

In this gripping chapter of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863," tension rises as Thomas and his companions confront the harsh realities of war and the moral dilemmas it presents. Captured by the sight of a doll belonging to a kidnapped girl, Birdie, Thomas learns from Captain Campbell that Confederate forces are abducting both slaves and free people. Despite the urgency of their mission to Gettysburg, Thomas feels an overwhelming urge to rescue Birdie, fueled by the painful memories of his own past experiences with such violence.

As men around him rally to help, Captain Campbell remains steadfast, reminding them of their orders. Henry eloquently argues that their fight loses meaning if they abandon the values they are supposedly fighting for. In a moment of impulsive courage, Thomas runs into the woods, determined to find Birdie, driven by a fierce protectiveness.

Upon discovering Birdie tied up and surrounded by a group of rebel soldiers, his heart sinks under the weight of hopelessness. He contemplates the very real danger of rushing in to save her but ultimately decides to confront the danger directly. Calling out to her, he puts himself at risk, offering himself up to the men in her place.

The tension escalates as the soldiers recognize Thomas. The cruel soldier



from his past, who had terrorized Henry, re-emerges, threatening Thomas with violence. However, a burly man amongst the rebels seems less aggressive, even showing a hint of gentleness. Yet, it becomes clear that Thomas's situation is dire; he is bound and marked for sale at a slave auction, reducing the gravity of his existence to a mere monetary value.

This chapter powerfully explores themes of bravery, sacrifice, and the struggle for humanity in the face of brutal dehumanization. As Thomas grapples with helplessness yet clings to the hope of protecting Birdie, the stark contrast between moral duty and survival underlines the harrowing experiences of those caught in the tumult of the Civil War.

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Chapter 12:

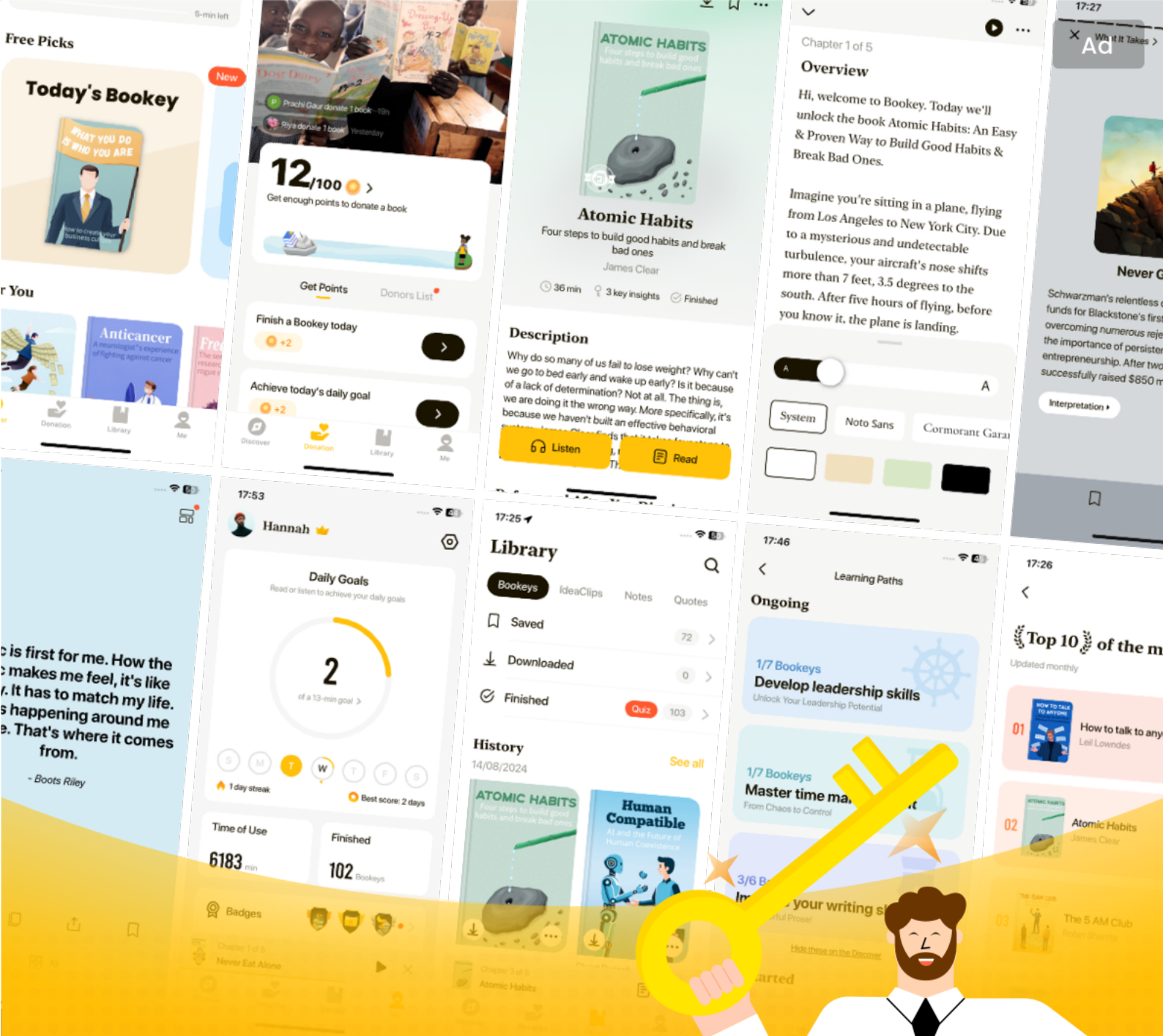
In Chapter 12 of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863," young Thomas and his little sister Birdie find themselves in dire straits after a terrifying encounter with Confederate soldiers. After Birdie's tumble from a wagon results in a lost tooth and a bit of blood, she remains surprisingly brave, whispering reassurance to Thomas about their men coming to save them. However, Thomas grapples with the grim reality that they might be alone and at risk of being sold in a slave auction, which fills him with dread.

Just as hopelessness sets in, a loud rifle shot cuts through the air, heralding the arrival of Captain Campbell and a contingent of Union soldiers. Thomas's heart races as familiar faces emerge through the trees, signaling their rescue. Captain Campbell declares they've come not to fight but to retrieve the children, surrounding the rebels and compelling them to disarm.

Tension escalates when one of the burly enemy soldiers aims a pistol at Henry. A gunshot rings out, and the attacker falls, setting off a cascade of emotions in Henry, who briefly wrestles with his own rage and the desire for

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Chapter 13 Summary:

As the sun began to set over Gettysburg, the day's fighting came to a close, leaving the Union troops in a grim situation, having suffered significant losses. However, Captain Campbell shared a glimmer of hope—the Union soldiers had managed to hold the high ground, which was crucial for their artillery. Amidst this tension, Thomas and Birdie arrived with Henry, witnessing the chaos and crowded streets teeming with Union soldiers. The sight was overwhelming for Thomas; the town was alive with tents, supply wagons, and exhausted yet determined men. Birdie's innocent perspective shone through as she innocently assumed that all these soldiers had come to protect her, prompting an affectionate smile from Thomas.

As they walked, Birdie was enthralled to see Black men among the soldiers and teamsters, working for the Union army. Thomas felt a surge of excitement, realizing these men were free and contributing to the fight for their cause. Birdie's cheerful greeting brought smiles to the tired faces around them, and Thomas felt a yearning to connect with them, wondering about their stories.

The mood shifted soon after as Captain Campbell announced the regiment's mission: they were to prepare for a challenging battle at dawn. The soldiers, who had been on their last legs moments before, found newfound energy as they rallied around their captain's passionate words, pledging to hold their



ground despite the fierce opposition they would face. The mention of the previous battle of Fredericksburg, where they had suffered losses, transformed into a rallying cry, morphing their pain into strength and determination for the battle ahead.

Amidst this fervor, Henry turned to Thomas, expressing deep concern for their safety. He instructed him and Birdie to stay behind with trusted companions, emphasizing the need for a promise: no matter what happened, Thomas would go to Vermont and seek a future with Henry's family. This moment marked a significant emotional weight for both boys, filled with uncertainty and a bond of brotherhood. With a heartfelt goodbye, Henry pressed a cherished book of paintings into Thomas's pocket, a symbol of their friendship, and then he joined the advancing soldiers. As Thomas stood there, parting with Henry, the weight of their world felt heavier, yet he held onto the hope of a better life waiting for them.



Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 14 of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863," the tension and violence of the battlefield come alive as cannon fire erupts around the characters. The noise and vibrations from the explosions create a chaotic atmosphere, making the ground shake beneath them. Birdie remains in the wagon with Les, whose injury has rendered him nearly immobile, while Homer and Thomas try to keep watch from a nearby rock. Homer reflects on the significance of their regiment's position on a small hill — a strategic high ground they are determined to defend against the approaching Confederate troops.

Amid the tension, a messenger rides up urgently needing ammunition, prompting Homer to decide to deliver it, despite the danger. Thomas volunteers to bring the ammunition, and as they race toward the battle, the peril escalates. Just as they reach the top of the hill, a cannonball shatters a tree nearby, and the horses panic. Homer quickly detaches them from the wagon as chaos ensues, and just as Thomas makes a run for safety, an explosion sends splinters flying and sets the wagon ablaze.

In the aftermath of the explosion, Thomas is badly injured, hit by shrapnel, and he struggles to escape the smoke and flames. He crawls down the hill toward the open meadow, where he catches a horrifying sight: thousands of rebel soldiers charging forward, armed and ready for battle. As the chilling



rebel yell echoes across the field, Thomas is filled with fear and desperation. Despite his injuries, he attempts to return to the safety of the high ground, but he's encountered by a charging rebel soldier. The chapter reaches a gripping climax as Thomas is shot, leaving the reader with a sense of dread and uncertainty about his fate.

This chapter vividly encapsulates themes of courage, camaraderie, and the harsh realities of war, emphasizing the bravery of young soldiers caught in the turmoil of history. Thomas's determination to survive for Birdie's sake adds a poignant emotional layer to the chaotic backdrop of the Battle of Gettysburg.

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Chapter 15:

In Chapter 15 of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863" by Lauren Tarshis, we find Thomas in a state of confusion and pain, initially believing he has returned to the harsh reality of being a slave on Mr. Knox's farm. As he struggles to regain his senses, voices call to him, heightening his anxiety. He feels trapped, as if chains are binding him, while agonizing pain hits his chest, leading him to fear he is being punished by Mr. Knox once again.

After two painful days in darkness, Thomas finally realizes he is not at the farm but in a hospital tent in Gettysburg, a place where he was taken after being wounded on the battlefield. His bloodied clothes and swollen eyes paint a grim picture of the battle he had just survived. The ambulance crew initially mistook him for dead but revived him when they heard him call for his sister, Birdie. Thomas's life was spared not by weapons but by a tin-covered book of paintings that absorbed the impact of a bullet that could have taken his life, emphasizing the theme of unexpected hope.

As the war rages on around him and thousands fall, Thomas remains

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Chapter 16 Summary:

In this heartfelt chapter, Thomas sits at his school desk next to his beloved sister, Birdie, focused on perfecting his handwriting. Their teacher, Miss Ashford, who is also Henry's sweetheart, shows admiration for Thomas's efforts, boosting his confidence. It's been five months since the siblings arrived in Vermont after the horrific battle of Gettysburg, and while they feel welcomed by Henry's family, there's an underlying sadness because Henry is no longer with them.

During lunch under a tree, as the air grows colder and the sky turns gray, Thomas reflects on his grief for Henry, who had encouraged their journey to Vermont. Mrs. Green, Henry's mother, greets them as a gift from her son, showing the deep bond that remains despite his absence. The siblings' transition has been facilitated by Clem, who bravely escaped from a brutal plantation to reunite with them but is soon called to serve as a soldier in one of the first black regiments of the Union army. Clem's remarkable story of survival and determination inspires Thomas, who eagerly reads his letters, filled with vivid accounts of his journey and dreams for the future.

Despite the haunting memories of war that still linger in Thomas's mind, he clings to hope. He envisions a future where they can all be together again, free from the horrors of battle. Just as he allows himself to dream of brighter times, Birdie joyfully interrupts his thoughts, announcing the first snow of



the season. In that moment, wrapped in each other's arms, they share in the beauty of the falling snow, a symbol of hope and new beginnings amidst their challenges. The chapter beautifully weaves together themes of family, loss, resilience, and the enduring power of hope, leaving readers with a sense of warmth and anticipation for what the future holds for Thomas, Birdie, and Clem.

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Chapter 17 Summary: A Trip Back In Time

In Chapter 17 of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863" by Lauren Tarshis, the author reflects on the Civil War, a tumultuous time in American history when the nation was divided and brother fought against brother. She draws attention to the immense suffering endured during this period, highlighting that nearly 750,000 lives were lost—more than in all other American wars combined. The chapter evokes a deep sense of empathy as she asks readers to consider the tragic reality of slavery, where millions were treated as property, stripped of their humanity.

Tarshis shares her research journey, which involved reading a wide array of historical materials, visiting Gettysburg, and contemplating the battlefield's serene beauty, now surrounded by rolling hills and quiet forests. The contrast between the peaceful landscape and the violence that once took place there is striking. As she climbs Little Round Top with her family, she imagines the battlefield in July 1863, filled with the bodies of fallen soldiers, every one with a personal story and a family left to mourn.

One poignant moment is when she recalls a letter from a young Confederate soldier, who questioned if anyone would remember the sacrifices made at Gettysburg. With heartfelt conviction, Tarshis assures him, "Yes, I wanted to tell him. We remember." This chapter underscores themes of memory, loss, and the importance of honoring history, reminding us that while the past is

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filled with horror and heartbreak, it also shapes our collective identity.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of remembering history and honoring sacrifices

Critical Interpretation: As you reflect on the sacrifices made during the Battle of Gettysburg, you may find inspiration in the realization that remembering our history enriches our understanding of humanity. It reminds you of the strength required to endure hardship and the courage it takes to stand for what is right. Just as the young soldier questioned if their sacrifices would be remembered, you too can commit to honoring the lessons of the past in your own life. In moments of struggle, remember those who came before you, and let their stories motivate you to strive for a better future, ensuring that their sacrifices were not in vain.



Chapter 18: Questions and Answers About the Civil War, and More

In Chapter 18 of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863," the author reflects on the crucial events and significance of the Civil War, particularly focusing on the Battle of Gettysburg. The narrative begins by acknowledging the complexity of the war, which lasted from 1861 to 1865. It emphasizes that while the main storylines involving characters Thomas and Birdie are fictional, they are inspired by the real-life struggles faced by countless children during this tumultuous period. Slavery, a central issue, is presented as a moral contradiction to the ideals of freedom and equality espoused in America's founding documents.

The author explains that by 1860, four million enslaved people were still in bondage in the South, deploring the moral failings of even revered figures like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, who owned slaves. The chapter highlights a change in attitudes toward slavery, especially in the North, where more people began to view it as fundamentally wrong. This shift led to tension between the North and South, culminating in the

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