

2011 American History Essay Contest topic is:

Pretend you were alive during the War of 1812 and had a friend who has become famous in history because of standing up for America during that exciting but dangerous time. Describe the person and how he or she stood up for America.

Explain why it is important to honor such heroes when we celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812.

Title of essay "Young America Takes a Stand: The War of 1812"

Young America Takes a Stand: The War of 1812

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During the war of 1812, there were many strong and courageous heroes that fought for the rights and freedom of America, although we may not know it. But I believe one hero stood out above all, one who has become famous in history because of her fearless actions. And that hero was Anne Jackson—yes, Anne Jackson, my best friend.

This all happened a year ago, although I, Shirley Peterson, remember every moment like yesterday. It was a dark night, a cold, menacing night, with the endless stretch of midnight-black sky glittering above us, embroidered with shimmering stars that flashed like silvery suns. I was at Anne's house for my first ever sleepover—one that I shall never forget. It was almost midnight. We were both lying stomach-down in the scratchy bed we were sharing, small chins propped comfortably in our sticky hands, twisted blanket slumped awkwardly over our heads. We had been telling scary stories to each other, as neither of us could sleep, when we heard it—the faint repetitive marching sound clicking rhythmically on the cobblestone outside. Immediately our minds began to race—a bloodthirsty horde of zombies, we thought, a wandering parade of hairy monsters. But when we finally dared to look out the window, it was something worse—something much, much worse.

It was the British soldiers.

From here on things only got worse. The British promptly broke into Anne's house and captured her parents, dragging them roughly out of the house and taking them somewhere far, far away, never to be seen again. All the time, Anne and I lay crying softly under the bed, waiting for it to be over. Although it all happened in a matter of minutes, it seemed like an eternity for us. By the time we finally came out, Anne had somehow gotten a crazy idea in her mind that she was going to visit all the other remaining Americans and warn them of the British. I tried reasoning with her, telling her that we were only twelve and that it was practically an impossible mission, but Anne was stubborn. And now, looking back on it, I'm glad she was.

Although we were barely more than children, we painstakingly traveled to every household within twenty miles from Anne's house, with continuous rain splattering repetitively against our faces, and warned every person we could find of the British, who were, as I later found out, forcefully impressing the Americans to fight for them. Anne and I decided to take a little shortcut through the woods so we could get to the homes before the British did. Most people believed us; others eyed us skeptically as if we were simply playing some sort of practical joke. Eventually, we managed to

convince them all, and I must admit, we saved a good deal of lives because of our hard work, effort, and bravery.

Now, as I look back on it, I realize that my best friend, Anne Jackson was incredibly brave to do what she did. Her determination to warn others saved many of our friends and neighbors from being captured from the British.

This shows why it is important to honor such heroes when we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. The way these heroes stood up for America was very daring and dangerous, yet they still did it anyway. Anne Jackson was a true hero of the War of 1812.

Bibliography

War of 1812 : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_1812