

Name _____

Date _____

Class _____

Assessment 10A: New-Read Assessment 1

Directions: Read chapter 4, “Drumbeats and Bullets,” from *The Boys’ War*. Then, answer the questions that follow in PARTS 1, 2, and 3.

PART 1: Use Context to Understand Vocabulary

Directions: Use your knowledge of context clues to answer the following questions about words found in chapter 4.

1. Read the following sentence from page 40.

Drummers were such a vital part of battle **communication** that they often found themselves the target of enemy fire.

What is the meaning of the word **communication** in this sentence? Use your knowledge of the affix *-ation* to determine the meaning.

- It is a noun meaning “the sharing of messages, information, or ideas.”
- It is a verb meaning “to exchange messages, information, or ideas.”
- It is a noun meaning “someone who shares messages, information, or ideas.”

2. Read the following sentence from page 40, and then answer PART A and PART B.

Drummers were such a **vital** part of battle communication that they often found themselves the target of enemy fire.

PART A

What is the meaning of the word **vital** in the context of the sentence?

- exciting
- obvious
- important
- small

PART B

Which detail from the text provides context for the meaning of the word *vital*?

- “Drummers”
- “battle communication”
- “found themselves”
- “target of enemy fire”

3. Read the following excerpt from page 43, and then answer PART A and PART B.

Even as their role in the fighting was changing, Civil War drummers stayed at their positions signaling orders to the troops. Hundreds were killed and thousands more were wounded. “A cannon ball came bouncing across the corn field,” a drummer boy recalled, “kicking up dirt and dust each time it struck the earth. Many of the men in our company took shelter behind a stone wall, but I stood where I was and never stopped drumming. An officer came by on horseback and **chastised** the men, saying ‘this boy puts you all to shame. Get up and move forward.’ We all began moving across the cornfield.”