

I Survived The American Revolution, 1776

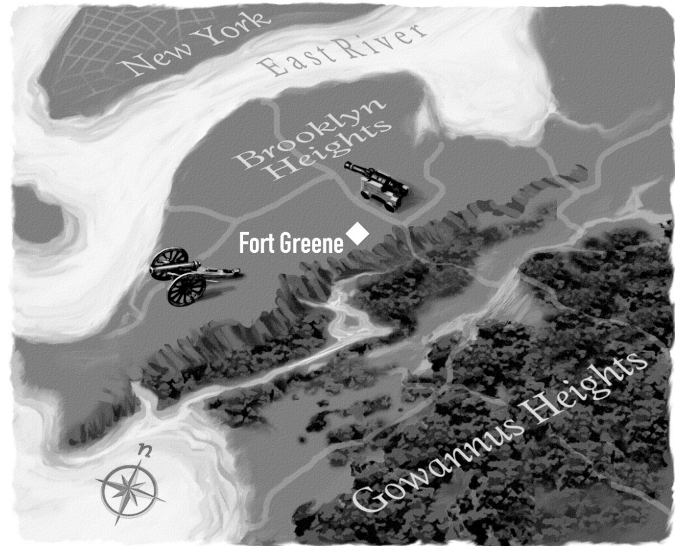


READ-ALOUD

In this read-aloud from *I Survived the American Revolution*, Nate, Paul, Martin, Samuel, and the men of Connecticut's 5th are preparing to defend Brooklyn from the British when a very special visitor shows up. Assign roles to your family and friends, and recreate the night before the Battle of Brooklyn.

CHARACTERS:

Narrator
Samuel
Paul
Martin
Nate
General George Washington
Other soldiers



ART BY SCOTT DAWSON

The night before the Battle of Brooklyn

Narrator: On the night of August 26th, 1776, soldiers from different companies, including Connecticut's 5th, gather around campfires at Fort Greene in Brooklyn.

Samuel: Men, eat now, because soon—

Paul: —soon we'll be driving those Redcoats back to merry old England!

Narrator: The men all cheer and begin to sing.

Paul, Samuel, Other Soldiers: (*singing*) "Yankee Doodle went to town, riding on a pony..."

Martin: Here, Nate, take this.

Narrator: Samuel hands Nate a hunk of pork. Nate is too worried to eat.

Nate: I don't think I can.

Martin: You have to. Keep your strength up.

Nate: Why are they singing? Aren't we about to go into battle?

Martin: It's a way to get ready for what's about to happen.

READ-ALoud (CONTINUED)

Paul, Samuel, Other Soldiers: (*singing louder now*) “Yankee Doodle, keep it up, Yankee Doodle Dandy...”

Nate: What’s a Yankee Doodle?

Martin: It’s what the British call us. They say the Americans are a bunch of Yankee Doodles, country fools who don’t know how to fight.

Paul: The British made up this song, to tease us in battle.

Nate: (*confused*) So why are we singing it?

Samuel: Because at Bunker Hill, we showed them what a bunch of Yankee Doodles can do. We stole the name—and the song!

Narrator: A trumpet sounds. The soldiers leap to their feet as a hush comes over the camp. Three men appear, one of them very tall and wearing a blue uniform.

Paul: (*whispering*) Stand tall, Nathaniel Fox. General George Washington is here to address us.

General Washington: The moment has come, men. The enemy has landed. And now the honor and success of America depends on you. You are fighting for freedom, and for your new country. The world will soon learn what a few brave men, fighting for their own land, can do.”

Narrator: The general finishes and leaves the camp, but his powerful words hang in the air after him. The men are silent, and full of purpose.

Paul: To bed now, boys. Who knows what tomorrow will bring.

Samuel: A battle. And we’ll be ready.

Martin: We will. America needs us.

Narrator: That night, as Nate falls asleep in his tent, General Washington’s words echo in his mind.

Nate: (*whispering to himself*) “The moment has come...and the world will soon learn what a few brave men, fighting for their own land, can do...” ■