

Level 6-8

The Battle of Red Cliffs

Workbook

Teacher's Guide and Answer Key

Teacher's Guide

A. Summary

1. Book Summary

During the last days of the Han Dynasty, three generals were fighting to control China. They were Cao Cao in the north, Sun Quan in the southeast, and Liu Bei in the southwest. Cao Cao asked Sun Quan to join him against Liu Bei, while Sun Quan asked Liu Bei's help in fighting Cao Cao. Liu Bei sent Zhuge Liang to see Sun Quan. Zhou Yu, Sun Quan's top general, together with Zhuge Liang, planned how to fight Cao Cao.

In the final battle, Zhou Yu attacked Cao Cao on the water with fire. Cao Cao had been tricked into tying all his ships together so his men wouldn't get sick. Zhou Yu's men set their ships on fire and ran them into Cao Cao's ships. Because his ships were all tied together, they all burned and sank. Cao Cao escaped but was caught by Liu Bei's men, led by Guan Yu. Because Guan Yu owed Cao Cao a debt, he let Cao Cao go. Guan Yu was ready to die for what he did, but Liu Bei let him off. After that, the three generals and the great river had peace for a time.

2. Chapter Summary

► Chapter 1

During the last days of the Han Dynasty of China in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, generals and nobles were fighting to take power. Three generals were very strong—Cao Cao in the north, Sun Quan in the southeast, and Liu Bei in the southwest. Cao Cao moved southward and took central China. But he was stopped by Liu Bei in the south. Cao Cao asked Sun Quan to join forces with him. But Sun Quan was not sure. In fact, he had already asked Liu Bei to help stop Cao Cao. Zhuge Liang, Liu Bei's military planner, came and persuaded Sun Quan and his men to stop Cao Cao. However, Sun Quan was worried about fighting Cao Cao's bigger forces.

► Chapter 2

Sun Quan asked General Zhou Yu for his opinion, but the general, too, had trouble making up his mind whether to attack Cao Cao or not. Zhuge Liang then tricked Zhou Yu into believing that all Cao Cao wanted was the two beautiful daughters of the Qiao family, and so all they had to do was send the women to Cao Cao and everyone would be safe. This angered Zhou Yu, because one of the women was his wife. He advised Sun Quan to attack

Cao Cao, saying they had a good chance of defeating Cao Cao's bigger army if they fought on water. Zhuge Liang promised to help Zhou Yu.

► Chapter 3

Zhou Yu and Zhuge Liang sailed for the Three Gorges with Sun Quan's men and ships. Zhou Yu was afraid of Zhuge Liang and wanted him killed. He gave Zhuge Liang the most difficult task of cutting off Cao Cao's supplies. Liu Bei, worried about his best military planner, sent a messenger to ask about Zhuge Liang. Zhou Yu invited Liu Bei to visit him, hoping to kill him, but his plan failed. When a messenger arrived with a letter from Cao Cao, Zhou Yu tore up the letter and killed the messenger. An angry Cao Cao sent his two best admirals to attack Zhou Yu, but they lost the battle on water. Zhou Yu sent Jiang Gan to ask Cao Cao to surrender. Cao Cao found on him a letter from his two admirals to Zhou Yu, saying that Cao Cao wanted to surrender. Cao Cao had the admirals killed. But it was actually a trick by Zhou Yu to get Cao Cao to kill his two best admirals.

► Chapter 4

Zhou Yu asked Zhuge Liang to get a hundred thousand arrows for their sea battle. He made Zhuge Liang promise to kill himself if he failed, hoping that he could get rid of him this way. Zhuge Liang sailed out with twenty boats loaded with grass on a foggy night. When Cao Cao's men saw the boats, they shot arrows at them. Zhuge Liang got more than enough arrows this way. Cao Cao sent the two younger brothers of Cai Mao, one of the admirals that he had killed, to Zhou Yu's camp as spies. They went to tell Zhou Yu they had come to get revenge on Cao Cao for killing their brother. Zhou Yu pretended to believe them. He then beat his favorite general, Huang Gai, almost to death in front of all the other generals. Cai Mao's brothers reported this to Cao Cao.

► Chapter 5

Huang Gai sent a letter to Cao Cao saying he was leaving Zhou Yu for the way he had insulted him and because Cao Cao's troops were stronger. Because of the report of Cai Mao's brothers, Cao Cao believed Huang Gai and asked him to join his side. Zhou Yu and Pang Tong talked about attacking Cao Cao's ships with fire. Pang Tong said the ships would have to be tied together so they would all burn up. When Jiang Gan, who was now helping Cao Cao, came to visit Zhou Yu, Zhou Yu tricked him into taking Pang Tong with him back to Cao Cao. When Pang Tong met Cao Cao, he suggested to him to chain the ships together in order to keep his men from getting sick on the moving ships. Cao Cao fell for the trick and ordered his men to carry out the plan.

► Chapter 6

One of Cao Cao's admirals warned that if they were attacked by fire all the ships would be lost, but Cao Cao wasn't worried. It was winter, he said, and the northwest wind would blow the fire back onto the ships attacking from the southeast. Zhou Yu was also worried about that. Zhuge Liang told him he would pray for a southeast wind. When the wind changed to the southeast, Huang Gai loaded his ships with grass and oil and sailed toward Cao Cao's ships. Cao Cao thought he was coming to join him. Huang Gai set fire to his ships when he got close to Cao Cao's ships. The ships were all burned up, but Cao Cao escaped in a small boat. During the battle, Zhou Yu wanted to kill Zhuge Liang, but Zhuge Liang had sailed away on a boat that he had asked Liu Bei to send.

► Chapter 7

Back at Liu Bei's camp, Zhuge Liang was preparing to attack Cao Cao. He sent Zhao Yun to the Black Forest and Zhang Fei to the Hulu Valley to stop Cao Cao when he passed by. Guan Yu asked why he had not been sent. Zhuge Liang explained that as Guan Yu had a debt to Cao Cao, he didn't trust him. Guan Yu promised he would not let Cao Cao escape. So Zhuge Liang sent him to guard the Huarong Path. But Liu Bei was still worried. Zhuge Liang told him he knew that Guan Yu would let Cao Cao go. But he had read in the stars that Cao Cao's time was not up yet, so there was nothing they could do about it. Cao Cao managed to escape from the attackers in the Black Forest and the Hulu Valley.

► Chapter 8

Cao Cao had only three hundred men left. He decided to take the Huarong Path, where he was attacked by Guan Yu's men. Cao Cao asked Guan Yu to let him go, since he had let Guan Yu live in one previous battle. Guan Yu finally let him go. Guan Yu returned to Liu Bei's camp and told Zhuge Liang he was ready to die for his action, but Liu Bei let him live. For a time, peace came to the great river.

B. Background and Themes

- ★ **Deceit:** A main theme of the story was trickery, something that plays a big part in battles.

- ★ **Honor:** Guan Yu was ready to die for paying his debt to Cao Cao by letting him escape.

- ★ **Destiny:** Zhuge Liang read in the stars that Cao Cao would live and so there was nothing they could do about it.

Answer Key

Part A Story Focus

Before You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Introduction

1. It came from the novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*.
2. Luo Guanzhong wrote it in the 1300s.
3. It was the Three Kingdoms era in China.

► Characters

1. Cao Cao: ambitious, foolish
2. Liu Bei: powerful, wise
3. Sun Quan: trusting, careful
4. Zhou Yu: cruel, tricky
5. Zhuge Liang: clever, brave
6. Guan Yu: loyal, honest

While You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Chapter 1

A. Preview Questions

1. It is Cao Cao.
2. I think he is a general.
3. I think they are going to battle.

B. Review Questions

1. They were Cao Cao, Sun Quan, and Liu Bei.
2. He asked Sun Quan for help.
3. He decided he had to fight Cao Cao.

► Chapter 2

A. Preview Questions

1. I think they are Zhuge Liang, Sun Quan, and Sun Quan's advisors.
2. I think they are in the camp of Sun Quan.
3. I think they are planning an attack on Cao Cao.

B. Review Questions

1. It was to get the two beautiful daughters of the Qiao family.
2. His wife was one of the daughters of the Qiao family.
3. They had to attack Cao Cao.

► Chapter 3

A. Preview Questions

1. They are Zhou Yu, Liu Bei, and Guan Yu.
2. I think they are talking about attacking Cao Cao at the Three Gorges.
3. I think he has the sword to protect Liu Bei.

B. Review Questions

1. He wanted Zhuge Liang killed.
2. He couldn't kill Liu Bei because Guan Yu was beside him all the time.
3. He tricked Cao Cao into killing his two best admirals.

► **Chapter 4**

A. Preview Questions

1. It is getting arrows.
2. I think they were shot by the enemy.
3. I think they will be used by Zhuge Liang.

B. Review Questions

1. He needed a hundred thousand arrows.
2. Zhuge Liang would get what they needed.
3. He beat him almost to death.

► **Chapter 5**

A. Preview Questions

1. He is Pang Tong.
2. I think he is trying to trick Cao Cao.
3. I think it is a heater.

B. Review Questions

1. Pang Tong did.
2. Zhou Yu did not welcome him.
3. He persuaded him to tie them together.

► **Chapter 6**

A. Preview Questions

1. It is taking place on the water.
2. I think they are Cao Cao's ships.
3. I think he is leading the attack on Cao Cao.

B. Review Questions

1. He wasn't worried because the northwest wind in winter would blow the fire back on the enemy.
2. He was worried that without the southeast wind they could not win the war.
3. The wind changed to the southeast.

► **Chapter 7**

A. Preview Questions

1. They are Zhang Fei, Zhao Yun, Zhuge Liang, and Guan Yu.

2. I think they are talking about Cao Cao.
3. I think he will escape.

B. Review Questions

1. He was getting Liu Bei's generals and men ready to attack Cao Cao.
2. Guan Yu was sent to guard the Huarong Path.
3. He had studied the stars.

► Chapter 8

A. Preview Questions

1. It is Guan Yu.
2. I think it is Cao Cao.
3. I think he is begging Guan Yu to let him go.

B. Review Questions

1. He chose the smaller mountain path.
2. He let Cao Cao pass through.
3. Liu Bei did not do anything to him.

Mini Quiz

- a. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.
 - We tend to imitate the people that we admire most, which is a way of flattering those people.
- b. It is better to give than to receive.
 - Giving things to other people actually makes us feel better than getting things from them.
- c. He who fights and runs away may live to fight another day.
 - Sometimes, instead of fighting a battle all the way to the end, we have to give up in order to survive and maybe fight and win at a later date.

After You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Pattern Practice

4. B: Before we could stop him, the thief had jumped out of the window.
5. A: By the time I started elementary school, you had already finished fifth grade!

► Challenge

1. Cao Cao started his southern campaign.
2. In this way, Zhuge Liang got more than enough arrows.
3. Huang Gai set fire to his ships and attacked.
4. Guan Yu knew the difference between following his own feelings and doing his job as a soldier.

Part B Skill Focus

Vocabulary Preview

A.

Across

1. campaign 4. advised 7. weak 8. already 9. trick

Down

2. attack 3. surrender 5. plan 6. burn

B.

1. report had arrived
2. made a plan
3. was under attack
4. was insulted
5. let him escape
6. job as a soldier
7. he begged for

Reading Comprehension

► Beginning: Chapters 1–3

A.

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T

B.

1. Liu Bei
2. Sun Quan
3. Zhuge Liang
4. Cao Cao

C.

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. d 5. b 6. d

► Middle: Chapters 4–5

A.

1. F 2. T 3. T 4. F 5. T

B.

1. He is Cao Cao.
2. He is a general.
3. He could not defeat Liu Bei.
4. He needs the help of Sun Quan.

C.

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. b 5. c 6. a

► End: Chapters 6–8

A.

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. T 5. T

B.

d → c → b → a

C.

1. c 2. b 3. c 4. b 5. b 6. a

Think and Write

Cause 1: Zhuge Liang is sent to see Sun Quan.

Cause 2: Zhuge Liang tricks Zhou Yu.

Event 1: Zhou Yu fights Cao Cao.

Consequence 1: Battle of Three Gorges

Cause 3: Jiang Gan is insulted by Zhou Yu

Cause 4: Jiang Gan asks Pang Tong for help

Event 2: Cao Cao ties ships together

Consequence 2: Cao Cao loses the battle.

Vocabulary Review

1. Generals and nobles were fighting to take power.
2. The problem was that Cao Cao's forces were bigger than his.
3. Liu Bei sent Zhuge Liang as a messenger to Sun Quan.
4. Zhou Yu was insulted because he was married to one of the Qiao daughters.
5. Cao Cao's soldiers were weak from fighting in a wet country.
6. Zhou Yu was afraid Zhuge Liang would become his enemy in the future.
7. Cao Cao said the two admirals made him lose the fight.
8. Pang Tong told Cao Cao he needed to tie his ships together with chains.
9. Heaven brought them wind from the southeast.
10. Liu Bei knew that Guan Yu was an honest man.

Summary

A.

2	4
1	3

B.

1. Cao Cao was stopped by Liu Bei on the northwest shore of the great river.
2. Liu Bei kept Guan Yu beside him every minute.
3. The arrows all hit the grass of the boats.
4. As Huang Gai was getting ready, he felt the southeast wind start to blow.

Book Report

Story 1. generals 2. military 3. tricks 4. arrows 5. burned