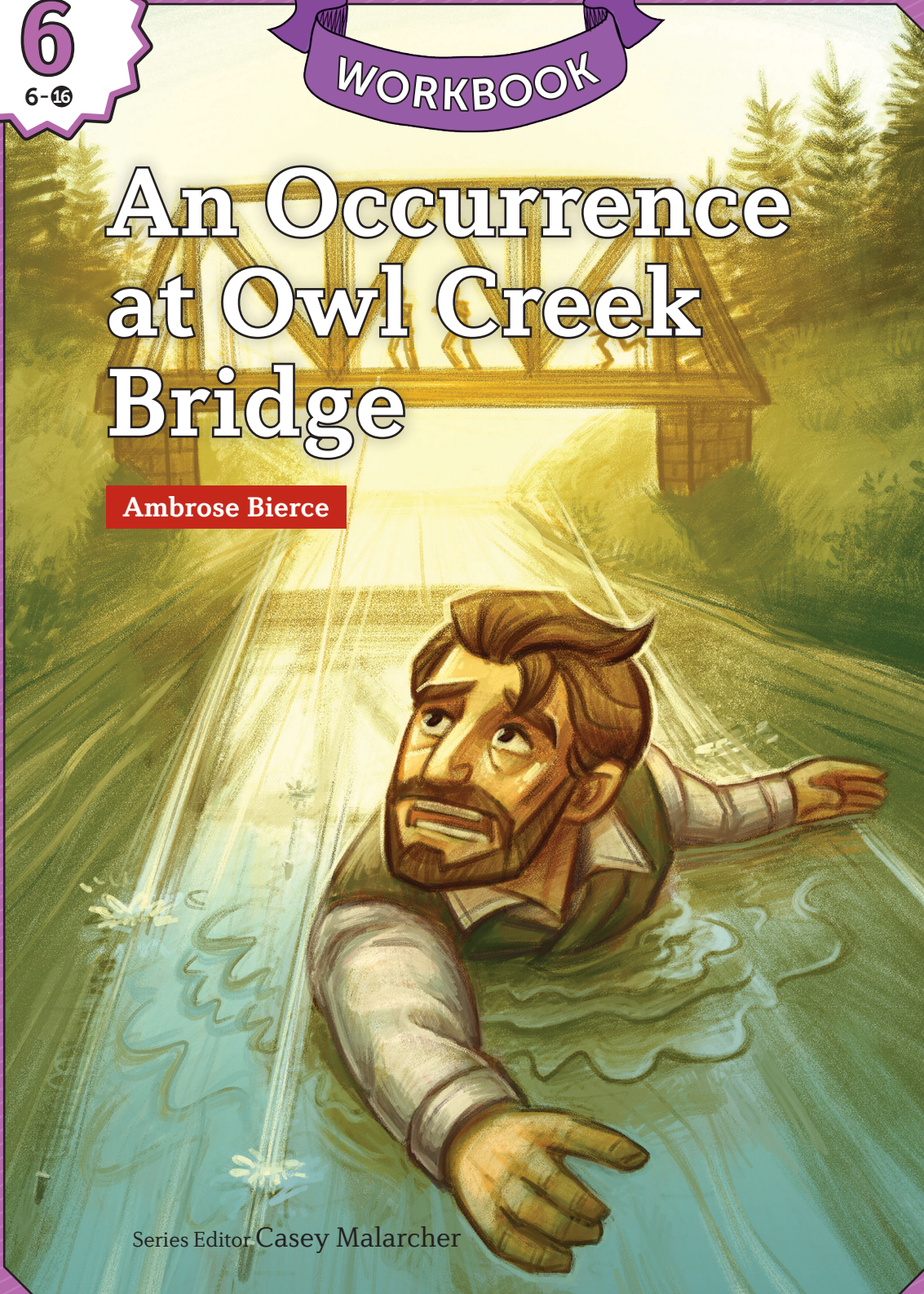




# An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge

Ambrose Bierce



Series Editor Casey Malarcher

# Reading Activities

## [ Chapter 1 ] Preparing for Death

### Before You Read

Look at the chapter heading and illustration. Think about the questions below.

- 1 Do you think someone will die in this chapter? Why or why not?
- 2 Look at the illustration on page 8. What do you think is happening?
- 3 How do you think the man is feeling?

### After You Read

**A.** Choose the best answer.

What were the soldiers preparing to do?

- a. Tie the man up
- b. Shoot the man
- c. Hang the man

**B.** Put a check  next to the people mentioned in the story so far.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a man waiting to be hanged | <input type="checkbox"/> a large group from the South |
| <input type="checkbox"/> soldiers from the North    | <input type="checkbox"/> a commanding officer         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the man's family           | <input type="checkbox"/> a captain                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a sergeant                 |   |

## [ Chapter 2 ] The Hanged Man

### Before You Read

Look at the chapter heading and illustration. Think about the questions below.

- 1 Do you think the man will be hanged? Why or why not?
- 2 Look at the illustration on page 11. What is the man thinking about?
- 3 How do you think the man got to where he is now?

### After You Read

**A.** Choose the best answer.

Who is the man that is about to be hanged?

- a. A plantation owner
- b. An assassin
- c. A soldier

**B.** What does the man look like? Circle the correct words.

1. His (**smart** / **dirty**) clothes suggested that he was rich.
2. He had a (**straight** / **crooked**) nose, firm mouth, and well-shaped head.
3. His long, (**light** / **dark**) hair was brushed straight back.
4. His eyes were large and dark (**blue** / **gray**).
5. He had a (**kind** / **mean**) expression on his face.

## [ Chapter 3 ] An Evil Trick

### Before You Read

Look at the chapter heading and illustration. Think about the questions below.

- 1 In this chapter, we find out a little bit more about the man. Do you think he will end up being a good or bad person?
- 2 Look at the illustration on page 14. Who do you think the man is speaking to?
- 3 What do you think they are talking about?

### After You Read

**A.** Choose the best answer.

What did Peyton Farquhar own?

- a. Slaves
- b. Guns
- c. Railroads

**B.** Put the information in the right place

1. First, \_\_\_\_ 2. Next, \_\_\_\_ 3. After that, \_\_\_\_ 4. In the end, \_\_\_\_

- a. Peyton spoke with a soldier about the war.
- b. Peyton saw a soldier dressed in the gray of the South.
- c. Peyton planned to help the South, but was tricked by a Northern soldier.
- d. Peyton asked if a man could do anything useful to help the South.



## [ Chapter 4 ] In the River

### Before You Read

Look at the chapter heading and illustration. Think about the questions below.

- 1 What do you think will happen to Peyton when he falls into the river?
- 2 Look at the illustration on page 17. Where is Peyton?
- 3 Do you think Peyton will drown in the river or escape? Why?

### After You Read

**A.** Choose the best answer.

What did Peyton realize when he woke up in the water?

- a. The rope had broken.
- b. He had been shot.
- c. The soldiers would jump in after him.

**B.** Write the information in the right sentence.

neck / head

entire body / terrible pain

ties / swimming up

### In the Water

Peyton woke up in the water. His \_\_\_\_\_ was in \_\_\_\_\_.



His hands pulled free from their \_\_\_\_\_. He started \_\_\_\_\_.



He removed the rope around his \_\_\_\_\_. Soon his \_\_\_\_\_ broke the surface of the water.

## [ Chapter 5 ] The Hunt Begins

### Before You Read

Look at the chapter heading and illustration. Think about the questions below.

- 1 Do you think the soldiers will try to capture Peyton? Why or why not?
- 2 Look at the illustration on page 20. What is happening?
- 3 Do you think Peyton is afraid of getting caught again? Why or why not?

### After You Read

**A.** Choose the best answer.

Where did the shots fired at Peyton land?

- a. A short distance from the river
- b. A few meters from his feet
- c. A few inches from his head

**B.** Match and write the information in the right place.

★ tree

★ body

★ insects

★ sound

- |                   |   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| Peyton could see  | • | • | the rush of a fish's _____ as it swam past him            |
| Peyton could feel | • | • | every _____ and feel every movement                       |
| Peyton could hear | • | • | every individual _____ and leaf and all the _____ on them |

**Before You Read**

Look at the chapter heading and illustration. Think about the questions below.

- 1 Do you think Peyton will get away from the soldiers? Why or why not?
- 2 Look at the illustration on page 23. Where is Peyton now?
- 3 What do you think Peyton will do next?

**After You Read**

**A.** Choose the best answer.

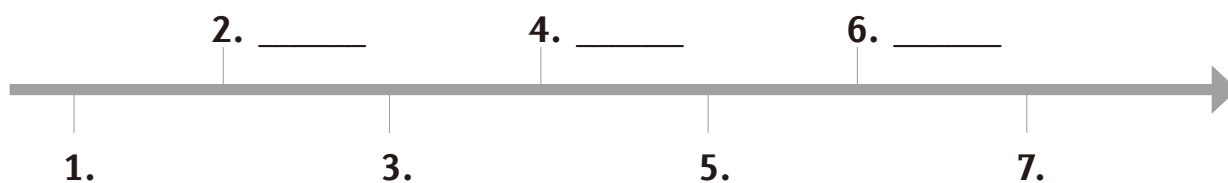
What brought Peyton back to his senses?

- a. The sound of his wife's voice
- b. Another shot from the cannon
- c. A bullet that hit him

**B.** Put the information in the right place.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| a. begins to make a plan               | b. rises to the surface of the water |
| c. is thrown onto the southern bank    | d. feels a huge splash near him      |
| e. feels bullets rush by him           | f. uses the current and swims fast   |
| g. realizes they are firing the cannon |                                      |

**Peyton . . .**



## [ Chapter 7 ] The Journey Home

### Before You Read

Look at the chapter heading and illustration. Think about the questions below.

- 1 Do you think Peyton's journey home will be difficult? Why or why not?
- 2 Look at the illustration on page 26. Where do you think Peyton is?
- 3 Do you think Peyton knows where he is? Why or why not?

### After You Read

#### A. Choose the best answer.

What did Peyton use to guide him as he traveled home?

- a. The sun
- b. The moon
- c. The stars

#### B. Write T for True or F for False.

1. Peyton could not discover a break in the forest. \_\_\_\_\_
2. By the time night fell, he was very tired and hungry. \_\_\_\_\_
3. He found a road that led him in the direction of his home. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The road home was narrow and winding. \_\_\_\_\_
5. There were many houses and fields next to the road. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Large golden stars shone brightly in the sky above him. \_\_\_\_\_
7. His arms and fingers felt swollen. \_\_\_\_\_
8. He stuck his tongue into the cold air to cool it. \_\_\_\_\_



## [ Chapter 8 ] Peyton Finds Rest

### Before You Read

Look at the chapter heading and illustration. Think about the questions below.

- 1 In this chapter, do you think Peyton will finally return home to his wife and children? Why or why not?
- 2 Look at the illustration on page 29. What do you think is happening?
- 3 Do you think Peyton is really seeing his wife? Why or why not?

### After You Read

#### A. Choose the best answer.

What is true about Peyton?

- a. He got lost in the forest and never returned home.
- b. He finally made it home to his family.
- c. He died when his neck was broken.

#### B. Put the information in the right place.

a. light    b. neck    c. blow    d. dead    e. loud    f. blinding

#### First

- A stunning \_\_\_\_ hit Peyton on the back of the \_\_\_\_.

#### Next

- A \_\_\_\_ white \_\_\_\_ shone all around him.

#### In the End

- He heard a \_\_\_\_ sound, then all was silent.
- Peyton was \_\_\_\_.