

Madeleine Takes Command

by Ethel Brill

Reading Schedule:

- Tuesday 2/21 in class, read chapter 1 and answer questions
- Wednesday 2/22 at home, read chapters 2-3 and answer questions
- Thursday 2/23 in class, read chapter 4 and answer questions
- Monday 2/27 at home, read chapters 5-6 and answer questions
- Tuesday 2/28 in class, read chapters 7-8 and answer questions
- Wednesday 2/29 at home, read chapters 9-10 and answer questions
- Thursday 3/1 in class, read chapters 11-12 and answer questions
- Monday 3/5 at home, read chapters 13-14 and answer questions
- Tuesday 3/6 in class, read chapters 15-16 and answer questions
- Wednesday 3/7 at home, read chapters 17-19 and answer questions
- Thursday 3/8 in class, read chapter 20 and Epilogue and answer questions

Chapter 1 (pp 1-13) – Left to Hold the Fort

Characters:

Setting:

WHERE - _____

WHEN - _____

AFTER READING:

Which brother is more reckless? _____

How old is Madeleine? _____

Where is Madame de Verchères going? _____

How big is the estate (seigneurie)? _____

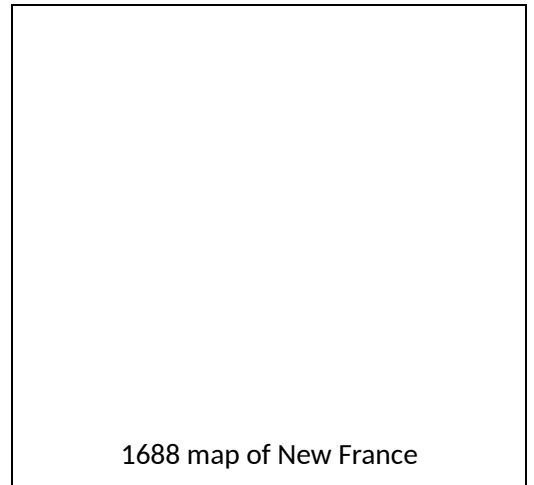
Which Indians invaded Montreal and the surrounding areas in New France?

Who leaves in the canoes with Madame de Verchères? _____

How did the farmers work in the fields if there was a constant threat of an attack by the Indians?

Where is Madeleine's father? _____

What is a bastion?



Chapter 2 (pp 14-26) – Madeleine Assumes Command and Chapter 3 (pp 27-35) - The Story of Father Dollier

Characters:

BEFORE READING:

Write about a really good story teller. Why is he or she your favorite story-teller?

Tell about a time when you had to choose between keeping a promise to a friend and keeping a promise to your family. What did you choose? Why? _____

AFTER READING:

Where is Madeleine’s father? _____

Who is the old man who comes into the house? _____

What repair is needed on the palisade? _____

What member of their family was killed the previous year? _____

For a 14-yr-old girl, Madeleine seems to be confident in her authority at the seigneury. Why do you think she is so confident? Does the scripture passage from 2 Timothy 1:7 help you? How?

“For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.” ~ 2 Timothy 1:7

Who did Louis promise help to? _____

What were Madeleine, Nanette, and Lavolette working together to make today? _____

What story do the boys and Madeleine want Lavolette to tell? _____

In Philippians 4:13, we read, “I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.” Another translation is “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” (NIV). How does this Scripture passage relate to Father Dollier?

Chapter 4 (pp 36-45) – Louis Deserts His Post

Characters: _____ and _____

BEFORE READING:

If you were an habitant, would you be willing to work for free on the palisade wall? Why or why not?

Tell about a time when you or any of your siblings ever been lost or missing from your family.

AFTER READING:

What is a *corvée*? _____

Why does Madeleine tell Louis that he may not order a *corvée*? _____

Who was Louis with when he disappears? _____



and Chapter 6 (pp 57-66) – The Iroquois

en lost of missing from your family.

ask for? Tell why you knew Mary was the one to

AFTER READING:

Why was Madeleine so anxious? _____

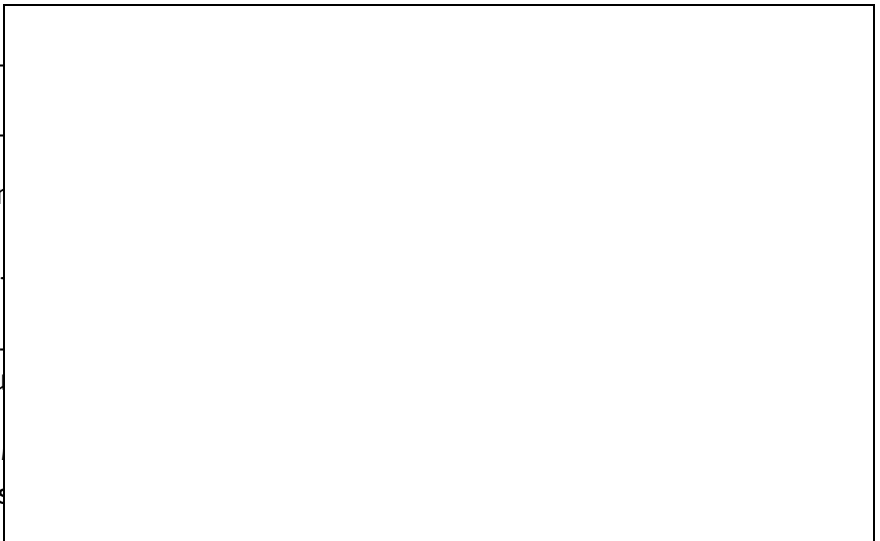
Who were the allies to the French? _____

Who cleared the way for the western Indian _____

Why didn't the men and boys of Verchères _____

What did Louis have with him when he retu _____

Reflect on the Scripture verse Luke 15:24, "*he was lost, and has been found.*" Do you s _____



What item does Louis give up to Madeleine to show that he is punishing himself? _____

Do you think it might be dangerous for Louis to be without his knife? Why or why not?

What sound did Madeleine and Laviolette hear that made them run back to the stockade? _____

To whom does Madeleine pray for help? _____

"All generations will call me blessed": "The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship." The Church rightly honors "the Blessed Virgin with special devotion. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of 'Mother of God,' to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs. . . . This very special devotion . . . differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the incarnate Word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration." The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary, an "epitome of the whole Gospel," express this devotion to the Virgin Mary. ~CCC ¶ 971

Does Madeleine's devotion to the Blessed Mother tell you that she is Catholic or Protestant? How can you tell?

Chapter 7 (pp 67-76) - Defense and Chapter 8 (pp 77-84) - The Sortie

Characters:

BEFORE READING:

Think about a time when you disobeyed your parents or another authority figure. When you were caught, how did you feel? Sad? Disappointed in yourself? Ashamed? Angry? Contrite? What did you do about your wrongdoing? _____

Have you ever had to cross a busy street with no crosswalk? Were you scared? Tell what happened.

AFTER READING:

What was Louis doing while the Indians were attacking?

Why do Louis and Madeleine believe that the sentries have deserted them?

How does Madeleine want them to act to let the Indians think that there are more of them than there really are? _____

What happened when Madeleine shot the musket?

What was one of the things Madeleine told the women to do in the blockhouse?

Why did Madeleine walk instead of run to the canoe and back? _____

Did Madeleine's plan to fool the Indians work? _____

What family was in the canoe? _____

What jobs did Madeleine give to the men and boys? _____

Chapter 9 (pp 85-96) – Reinforcement and Chapter 10 (pp 97-105) – Night and Storm

BEFORE READING:

Tell about a person you have known that you could trust completely. Who is it and why are they so trustworthy? _____

Tell about a time when you thought you saw or heard something that scared you. Did it turn out to be nothing? What was it? Why do you think you were scared of it? _____

AFTER READING:

Why was it a good thing that Alexandre (Sandre) played his drum?

What does Fontaine say will save them?

When is the most perilous time? _____

"2 Say to the LORD, "My refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust." 3 God will rescue you from the fowler's snare, from the destroying plague, 4 Will shelter you with pinions, spread wings that you may take refuge; God's faithfulness is a protecting shield. 5 You shall not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day," ~ Psalm 91:4

In spite of her obvious faith in God, do you think Madeleine is afraid going into that first night? Why or why not?

What did Madeleine want to pray for in the chapel?

Why did Madeleine shout, "All is well!" over and over with the others?

Why did they risk letting in the cows?

How did Laviolette know the time from the stars?

Why was the time just before dawn the most dangerous?

Chapter 11 (pp 106-118) – A Long Day and Chapter 12 (pp 119-127) – A Daring Adventure

Characters: _____

BEFORE READING:

Did you ever have a bad dream or nightmare? Tell about it and tell how it made you feel.

Tell about a time when you didn't get enough sleep during the night. How did it make you feel the next day? What did you do about it?

AFTER READING:

Madeleine noticed the smoke from the Indians' fires in the woods. What did she think about there being NO smoke coming from inside the fort?

Where was Marguerite Fontaine born? _____

Where does Marguerite Fontaine want to escape to? _____

Who does Madeleine say should be allowed to rest first and why?

Why did Louis want to chop down the bushes?

Why does Madeleine not want to ask Fontaine to help cut down the bushes?

Why did Laviolette gasp when he was cutting down bushes?

Did Louis and Laviolette get enough bushes cut down to see that side of the palisade clearly? _____

Chapter 13 (pp 128-136) – Waiting and Watching and Chapter 14 (pp 137-143) – The Fire Bearer

BEFORE READING:

Tell about a time when you were worried about your parents (one of them or both). What did you do to calm your worries?

Have you ever witnessed a fire (not a fireplace, but a fire out-of-control)? Was it scary for the people closest to the fire? If you have not witnessed a fire, what do you think you would do if you saw a fire burning out of control?

AFTER READING:

Who brought dinner to Madeleine? _____

Describe the Indian that they noticed on patrol outside the fort.

Where were Madeleine's parents?

How did Louis describe the Mohawks on the third morning? _____

What sounds were they listening for after the sun went down on the overcast sky?

Why didn't Louis shoot the Indian who started the fire the first time (with the musket)?

What did the Indian light on fire? _____

Why did Louis stay in the bastion even though it had been set on fire?

What did they say they need to keep in every bastion from now on? _____

They call out "All is well!" frequently. Do you think this has an effect on their state of mind, even when all is not well?

Chapter 15 (pp 144-153) –The Refugee and Chapter 16 (pp 154-163) – Warning

BEFORE READING:

How do you feel when the weather outside is fierce, windy, and rough?

Tell about a time when you dreaded something awful about to happen. How did you feel while you waited? What did you do to pass the time while you waited? What was the awful thing? Did it turn out to be so awful?

What do you do to get ready for a special occasion, like Easter Sunday Mass or Christmas dinner? Be descriptive!

AFTER READING:

What was Louis' plan to find out if the Mohawk Indians were still watching from the nearby woods?

Who returns to the fort at night? _____

Who else escaped from the Mohawk camp? _____

Where did Antoine go? _____

How much time did they have to wait for the attack? _____

Who is Onontio? _____

How did Antoine and Jacques escape?

Who is the only one who knows how to fire the cannon? _____

Why isn't Alexandre afraid to die?
