

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pd: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## US History: Literature Connection

Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Read “A Mystery of Heroism” by Stephen Crane on pgs. 435-441 of the **orange Holt Literature Anthology** (NOT THE AMERICAN VISION TEXTBOOK!!!). Respond to the following questions, with a thoughtful response (**2 sentences each, minimum**; attach an additional sheet if needed). After reading, choose **ONE** of the creative assignments on the back of this sheet. Everything will be due \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Pre-Reading (read the biography of Stephen Crane on pg. 433):

1. When did Stephen Crane live? Is “A Mystery of Heroism” a primary source account of a Civil War battle?
2. What kinds of stories is Crane interested in? (Hint: **Naturalism**)
3. **Prediction:** Based on Crane’s biography and the title, what do you think “A Mystery of Heroism” will be about?

### Reading Questions

4. (Pgs. 435-436) How does Crane describe the battle taking place in this story?
5. (Pgs. 437-438) What is Collins arguing about? What does he ask to do? What is strange or foolish about this?
6. (Pg. 439) What is unusual about how Collins feels stepping out into the battlefield?

a. What does this cause him to conclude about heroes?

7. (Pg. 441) What heroic thing does Collins do as he runs back to safety?

8. (Pg. 441) What is ironic about the ending?

### **Post-Reading Questions**

9. Do you think Crane considers Collins a hero? Explain why or why not.

10. Before the Civil War, many Americans viewed war as noble and patriotic. How might the Civil War have changed people's perception of war?

### **Creative Project (CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING):**

- **OPTION 1:** Imagine you are directing a film adaptation of "A Mystery of Heroism."
  - Create a movie poster for a film adaptation of the story
  - Come up with an 8-track soundtrack for your movie adaptation of the story. For each song, include a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) explaining exactly when the song will play and why it fits with the story.
- **OPTION 2:** Read the Civil War letters & journal entries on pgs. 446-449. Write 3 letters and/or journal entries from the perspective of a civil war soldier, each detailing a major event from the war. Should be based upon information covered in class and/or outside research (2 pg. minimum).