You Are There!

TIME

Gettysburg

July 1–3, 1863



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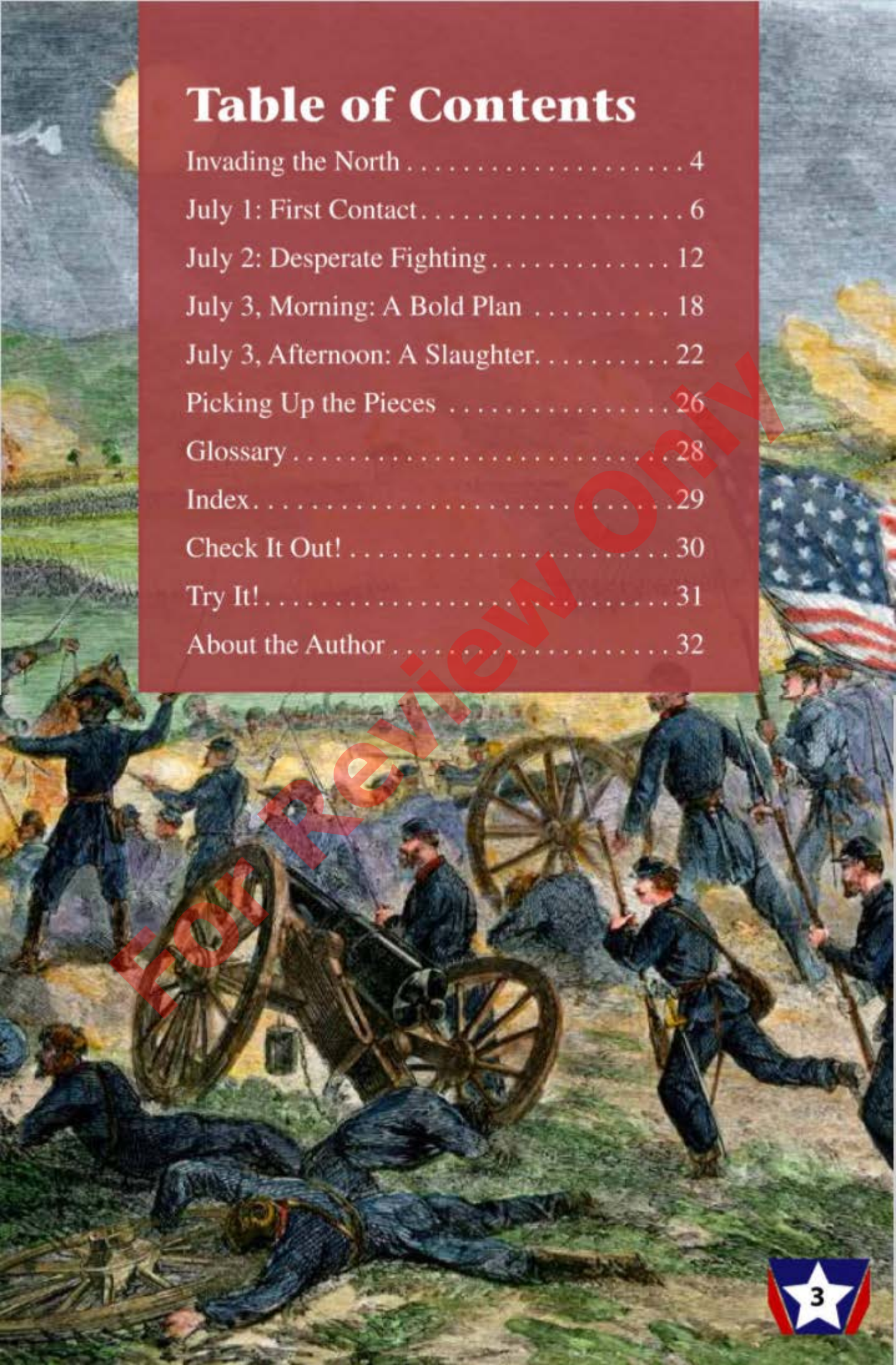
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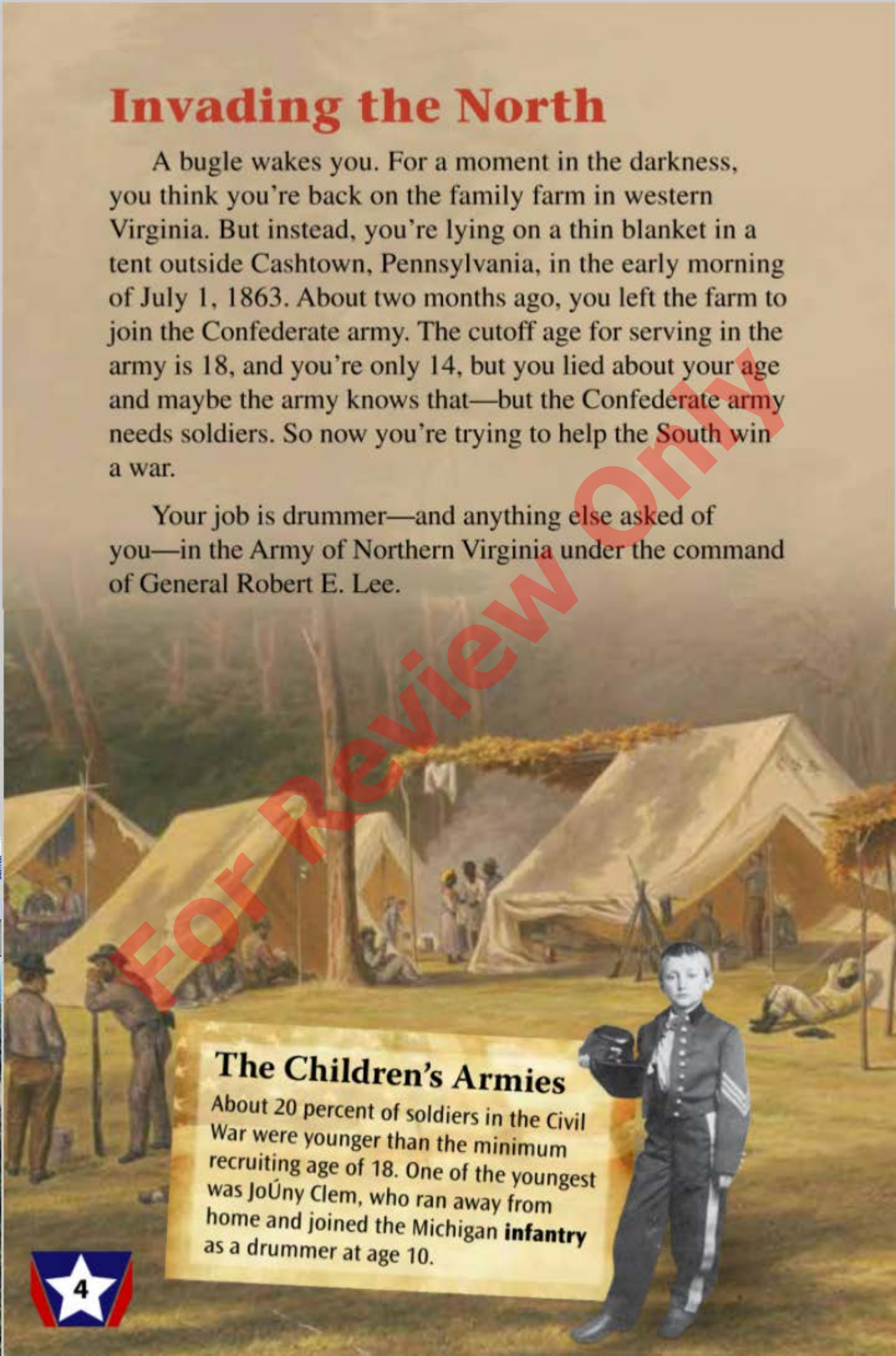
For Review Only

Invading the North

A bugle wakes you. For a moment in the darkness, you think you're back on the family farm in western Virginia. But instead, you're lying on a thin blanket in a tent outside Cashtown, Pennsylvania, in the early morning of July 1, 1863. About two months ago, you left the farm to join the Confederate army. The cutoff age for serving in the army is 18, and you're only 14, but you lied about your age and maybe the army knows that—but the Confederate army needs soldiers. So now you're trying to help the South win a war.

Your job is drummer—and anything else asked of you—in the Army of Northern Virginia under the command of General Robert E. Lee.

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The Children's Armies

About 20 percent of soldiers in the Civil War were younger than the minimum recruiting age of 18. One of the youngest was JoÚny Clem, who ran away from home and joined the Michigan **infantry** as a drummer at age 10.

A Long March

The Civil War has been raging for almost two years, with the free states and the slave states fighting over the issue of slavery and state rights. Your brigade of tough Virginians has been marching north since May 3. You've passed through Virginia, Maryland, and now you are in Pennsylvania. The immediate goal is to capture Harrisburg, the state capital. Lee hopes this invasion will **demoralize** the North and force it to surrender. Then the Yankees will leave the South alone. Already, many Northern newspapers and politicians are demanding an immediate end to the war.



THINK LINK

- Why is there a cutoff age for joining the military?
- Why do you think some Northerners were calling for an end to the war?

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July 1: First Contact

Your brigade is located north of a small town called Gettysburg. General Henry Heth tells the troops that there may be supplies, especially shoes, in the town. Upon getting closer, the presence of Union soldiers is evident. Nevertheless, Heth makes it clear he still intends to search for the shoes. You learn that General Lee has forbidden any combat with the enemy, so some soldiers think the shoe hunt is just an excuse to start a fight.

You've learned how to bang your drum to call officers to council, to get infantry to march together, to sound retreat, and, as you're doing now, to assemble the soldiers. You are ready; you've already tightly rolled up your belongings in your blanket to carry over your shoulder. A tin water cup hangs from your belt, and a **haversack** for food is on your back, since much of your food comes from **foraging** in towns and the countryside.

Approaching Gettysburg

As your brigade marches toward Gettysburg, you hear that George Meade has been made commander of the Union's Army of the Potomac, but no one knows exactly where his army is. A few hours later, as you approach Gettysburg, you realize that you've found Meade's forces. The area is **teeming** with Union troops!

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How the Union and Confederate Armies Break Down		
Unit	**Number of Troops**	**Commanded By**
Army	At least 2 corps	General
Corps	Union: 10,000 to 20,000 Confederates: 20,000	Lieutenant general
Division (2–4 in a corps)	6,000 to 8,000	Major general
Brigade (2–3 in a Union division; 3–5 in a Confederate division)	1,200 to 4,000	Brigadier general
Regiment (4–5 in a brigade)	400 to 1,000	Colonel
Company (10 in a regiment)	40 to 100	Captain



STOP! THINK...

At Gettysburg, the Army of the Potomac had about 90,000 troops, and the Army of Northern Virginia had approximately 70,000.

- Which Confederate commander had a higher rank, Major General James Ewell Brown Stuart or Lieutenant General Richard S. Ewell?
- About how many extra divisions would the Army of Northern Virginia have needed to total more troops than the Army of the Potomac?

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The Battle Begins

Your brigade marches to the crest of Herr **Ridge**, northwest of Gettysburg. East of Herr Ridge is McPherson Ridge, and beyond that lies Seminary Ridge, both of which are currently held by Union soldiers.

Heth orders an attack on McPherson Ridge, and you excitedly drum the call for your first battle! Nearly 7,500 Confederates advance down the ridge and open fire on the enemy. The Yankee **muskets** blast both ends of your line in fearsome **enfilade**, and you have no choice but to retreat in a blind panic up Herr Ridge.

The Yankees Retreat

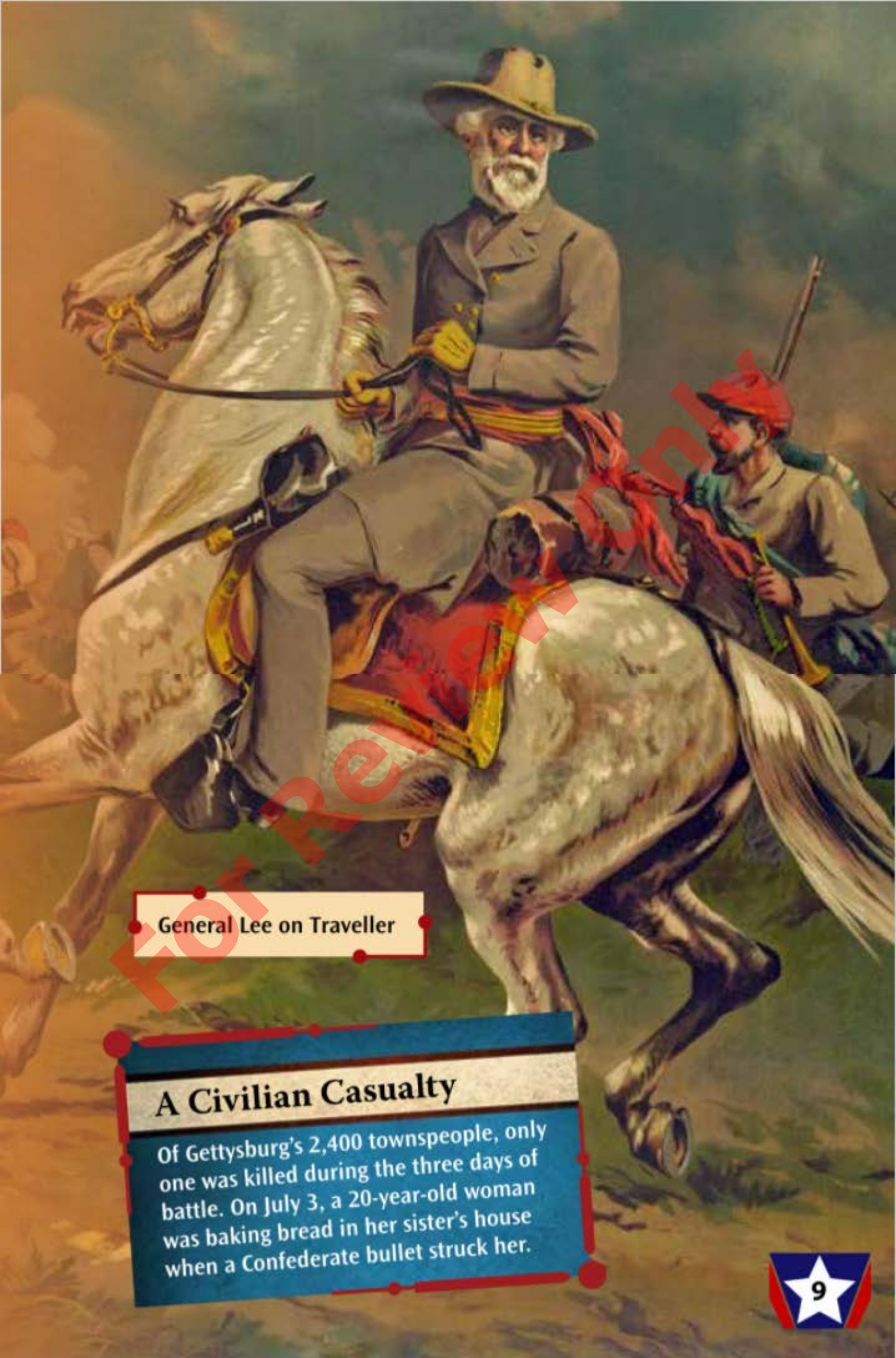
Your first clash is harrowing, and it's like nothing you have ever seen. There are bodies falling and men hollering in rage and screeching in agony. The rest of your **cohorts** have finally made it back to Herr Ridge to **recuperate**. As soon as General Lee rides by on his horse, Traveller, everyone jumps to their feet in respect. He **exhorts** the men to keep fighting, and they cheer so loud that you can't help but feel renewed in the resolve to fight.

You join the assault as the troops, yelling like demons, dash across the space between Herr Ridge and McPherson Ridge. The fierce charge sends the Yankees scurrying to Seminary Ridge and then into Gettysburg. In the chase after the Yankees, you observe that some of them are bolting through the streets, some are hiding in yards or cellars, and others are heading for a hill east of town.

Hat's Off to Heth

Confederate General Henry Heth was lucky on July 1. His hat was too big, so a clerk had rolled a dozen sheets of paper and put them into the sweatband to make the hat fit. In battle, a bullet hit him in the head. Without the paper cushioning the blow, the shot would have killed him.

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General Lee on Traveller

A Civilian Casualty

Of Gettysburg's 2,400 townspeople, only one was killed during the three days of battle. On July 3, a 20-year-old woman was baking bread in her sister's house when a Confederate bullet struck her.

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