Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Robert E. Lee had a distinguished career in the U.S. Army until his home state of Virginia seceded from the Union on April 16, 1861. At that point, his loyalty to Virginia compelled him to join the Confederate army, where he became a general and one of the Confederacy’s greatest heroes. In January of 1861, Lee was a U.S. Calvary officer stationed in West Texas.*

“Letter to his Son”

*January 23, 1861*

. . . The South, in my opinion, has been aggrieved[[1]](#footnote-1) by the acts of the North, as you

say. I feel the aggression, and am willing to take every proper step for redress. It is

the principle I contend for, not individual or private gain. As an American citizen, I

take pride in my country, her prosperity and institutions, and would defend any

State if her rights were invaded. But I can anticipate no greater calamity[[2]](#footnote-2) for the

country than a dissolution of the Union. It would be an accumulation of all the evils

we complain of, and I am willing to sacrifice everything but honor for its

preservation. I hope, therefore, that all constitutional means will be exhausted before

there is a recourse to force. Secession is nothing but revolution. The framers of our

Constitution never exhausted so much labor, wisdom and forbearance in its **a**

formation, and surrounded it with so many guards and securities, if it was

intended to be broken by every member of the Confederacy at will. It was

intended for ‘perpetual union’ so expressed in the preamble, and for the

establishment of a government, not a compact, which can only be dissolved by

revolution, or the consent of all the people in convention assembled. It is idle to

talk of secession. Anarchy would have been established, and not a government by

Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, and the other patriots of the

Revolution. . . . Still, a Union that can only be maintained by swords and

bayonets, and in which strife and civil war are to take the place of brotherly love

and kindness, has no charm for me. I shall mourn for my country and for the

welfare and progress of mankind. If the Union is dissolved, and the Government

disrupted, I shall return to my native State and share the miseries of my people,

and save in defence will draw my sword on none.

1. What evidence supports Lee’s perspective that war is not a means to end a political conflict?

1. “I feel the aggression, and am willing to take every proper step for redress.”
2. “Still, a Union that can only be maintained by swords and bayonets, … has no charm for me.”
3. “I hope, therefore, that all constitutional means will be exhausted before there is a recourse to force.”
4. “It was intended for ‘perpetual union’ so expressed in the preamble, and for the establishment of a government, not a compact, which can only be dissolved by revolution, or the consent of all the people in convention assembled.”

2. What is Lee’s implied purpose for writing to his son?

1. To mourn the secession of the southern states
2. To emphasize a legitimate reason for going to war
3. To defend the rights of states
4. To explain what his actions will be if the Union is dissolved

3. The main idea of Lee’s “Letter to His Son” could be expressed best as

1. Belief that the integrity of the Union must be preserved at all costs.
2. Determination that the South will not be subdued.
3. Despair over a Union that can only be maintained by force.
4. An argument in favor of secession.

**Directions**: read the following speech from Chief Joseph and answer the questions that follow.

[*Joseph*](http://www3.pbs.org/weta/thewest/wpages/wpgs400/w4joseph.htm) *was chief of the* [*Nez Perce*](http://www.nezperce.com/npeindex.html)*, a Native American tribe of the* [*Wallowa Valley*](http://www3.pbs.org/weta/thewest/wpages/wpgs300/3wallowa.htm) *in Northwest Oregon. In* [*1877*](http://www3.pbs.org/weta/thewest/wpages/wpgs200/w21870.htm#nez1877) *the Nez Pierce were ordered to a reservation, or special land reserved for Native Americans. The Nez Pierce refused to go. Instead, Chief Joseph tried to lead 800 of his people to Canada. Fighting the U.S. Army all along their 1100 mile journey, they crossed Idaho and Montana. They were trapped just forty miles from Canada. After a five-day fight, the remaining 431 remaining Nez Perce were beaten. Chief Joseph delivered his surrender speech on Oct 5, 1877, as the Nez Perce were being relocated to a reservation. He is speaking to the U.S. Army through an interpreter.*

I Will Fight No More Forever

Chief Joseph

Tell General Howard[[3]](#footnote-3) I know his heart. What he told me before, I have in

my heart. I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. Looking Glass is dead.

Toohoolhoolzote[[4]](#footnote-4) is dead. The old men are all dead. It is the young men who

say yes or no. He-who-led-on-the-young-men is dead[[5]](#footnote-5). It is cold and we have no

blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them, have

run away to the hills, and have no blankets, no food; no one knows where they

are—perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children and

see how many of them I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear

me, my chiefs! I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now

stands I will fight no more forever.

4. Which words best describes Chief Joseph’s tone?

1. Brash and ironic
2. Weary and heavy-hearted
3. Self-pitying and imploring
4. Suspicious and angry

5. What details show his bias against fighting?

1. His people are suffering
2. He is dying
3. His people are running away
4. He knows Gen. Howard’s heart

6. Based on his diction, Chief Joseph’s audience might have been what kind of person?

1. Nonchalant
2. Compassionate
3. Aggressive
4. Melancholy

7. Specific details are given in both texts that indicate that they are valid sources and should be trusted as primary sources for the time. Is one source more biased than the other, or are they equally reliable as accounts? Choose one stance and defend it with a total of two details or more from both texts.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Response clearly answers the question citing at least 2 thoroughly explained direct quotes from the texts. | Response clearly answers the question citing at least 2 examples from the text but is lacking a clear explanation. | Response answers the question and uses vague details or only details from one of the text. Explanation of examples is lacking or missing. | Response is totally incorrect, inappropriate, or left blank. |

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| Number: | Skill: (GLE) | Answer  |
| 1.  | Author’s Perspective (2.4f) | C (1pt) |
| 2.  | Implied Purpose (2.4f; 4.2c) | B (1pt) |
| 3.  | Main idea (2.4f) | C (1pt) |
| 4.  | Tone (2.4c; 1.5)  | B (1pt) |
| 5.  | Bias (3.3a2; 2.5f) | A (1pt) |
| 6.  | Audience (1.5; 4.2c) | B (1pt) |
| 7.  | Primary source (3.3a2; 2.5f)  | Drop box (3,2,1, or 0) 3pts |

7. Students will either choose one of the pieces or defend both as evenly valid. Student has a thorough claim, set up, 2 examples, and 2 accurately explained tie ins. Either answer can be correct based upon the student’s explanation and support.

1. Aggrieved: (Verb) suffering from an infringement or denial of legal rights; also showing or expressing grief, injury, or offense [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Calamity: (Noun) a disastrous event marked by great loss and lasting [distress](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/distress%5B1%5D) and suffering [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. General Oliver Howard commanded U.S. Army troops in the west after 1874. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Toohoolhoolzote is a Nez Perce chief, killed at the battle of Bear Paw. His arrest in May of 1877 triggered the war between the Nez Perce and the United States. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. He-who-led-the-young-men-in-battle was his brother, Alikut. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)