Name _____ Period _____

"The Drummer Boy of Shiloh"

1. In the first three paragraphs, how does the author describe Joby's thoughts and feelings?

2. What details in the first three paragraphs on page 330 help establish the setting?

3. In the third paragraph on page 330, the word "solemn" is used three times. What does it mean and why do you think the author chose to repeat this word? What effect does it create?

4. On page 330, the author says, ". . . raw youth their protection and benediction." Why did the author choose to use the word benediction?

5. On page 332, how does Joby compare himself to the other soldiers?

6. Using evidence from page 332-3, describe the feelings that Joby has about the upcoming battle.

7. How does Joby view the other soldiers?

8. On page 333, Joby states, “Nothing was as it once was.” What does this statement tell us about Joby’s state of mind? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

9. What is the author trying to portray with this quote on page 333: “If he lay very still, when the dawn came up and the soldiers put on their bravery with their caps, perhaps they might go away, the war with them, and not notice him lying small here, no more than a toy himself.”

10. On pages 333, the general discovers that the crying soldier is Joby, the drummer boy. How does the general's presence and conversation comfort Joby?

11. On page 333, the general says, "Fool question . . . Do you shave yet, boy? Even more of a fool. There's your cheek, fell right off the tree overhead." What is the general saying about the boy in this quote?

12. On page 333, the general admits that he cried the night before. How does this affect Joby? What is the general afraid of?

13. On page 334, the general states, "When you got a bunch of wild horses on a loose rein somewhere, somehow you got to bring order, rein them in." Why would he tell this to Joby?

14. Why does the general say that the drummer boy is the "heart of the army"? Provide <u>evidence</u> from the text to support your answer.

15. The author spends time describing the interaction between Joby and the general. How does the interaction on page 334 help Joby understand his importance in the battle?

16. On pages 334-5, how does Joby's conversation with the general help him to overcome his fears?

17. At the end of the story, "Joby swallowed, wiped his eyes and cleared his throat, he settled himself. Then, at last, very slowly and firmly, he turned the drum so that it faced up toward the sky." What does this mean?