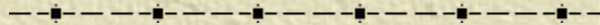


“War Party”



by Louis L'Amour



What do you know?

In your notes, brainstorm all you know about the pioneers settling the West.

Think about:

What was life like as a pioneer?

Why did people go out West?



Background to the Story



The setting of “War Party” is in the mid-19th century.

Many settlers were moving to the West, attracted by the promise of land.

Unfortunately with westward expansion, settlers faced obstacles—one of the most dangerous being Native Americans. Settlers also faced the challenges of the rough terrain and the threat of diseases like smallpox and cholera.

Important Vocabulary

ail: (v.) to feel ill or be in pain

contempt: (n.) an attitude of despising; scorn

disparagingly: (adv.) in a manner that shows a lack of respect

encroach: (v.) to intrude; trespass

principle: (n.) the code of good behavior; morality

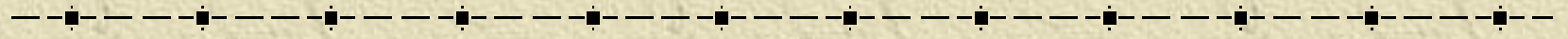
Author Background



Louis L'Amour (1908-1988)

- ✦ Left home at age 15
- ✦ Held jobs such as a ranch hand, lumberjack, longshoreman, and elephant handler
- ✦ Coined the term “yondering”—period of his life where he “wandered yonder”
- ✦ Began writing fiction after serving overseas in the army
- ✦ Wrote three novels a year for over 30 years

Let's Begin



As you read, think about how this short story can be classified as historical fiction. Be prepared to answer the essential question after we've completed the reading.



Post-Reading Story Map

In order to ensure comprehension of the narrative, it is helpful to complete a story map. Be sure to include specific details about the key events in the story.

Copy the diagram on the next slide into your notes and complete the details based on “War Party.”

Story Map Outline

Title:

Setting:

Characters:

Problem/Conflict:

Rising Action #1:

Rising Action #2:

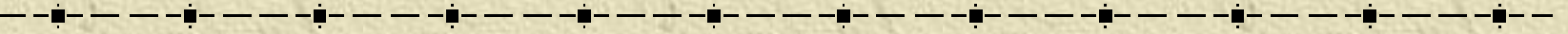
Rising Action #3:

Rising Action #4:

Climax:

Resolution:

Follow-Up to EQ #1



Based on the selection that we have just completed,

Why should we read historical fiction?

Answer this EQ in your notes.

Essential Question #2

Now, let's think about the characters in this short story.

How do fictional characters allow us to reflect on the lives of real people?

Think specifically about the characters of Ma, Bud, and Tryon Burt. Could they have been real people? What could we have learned from their experiences?

Patriotism



Think about the concept of Westward Expansion.

- How does this concept relate to our theme of patriotism?
- How could these early settlers be called patriots?

Answer these questions in your notes.

Character Sketch

Using the character sketch guide provided, prepare a character sketch about Ma. First, answer the questions, and then write a short composition based on your responses.

Use the rubric as a guide.