

Muscatine and the Civil War: the Letters of Daniel Parvin Video Series

Answer Key

Below is the answer key to the worksheets that accompany the *Muscatine and the Civil War: the Letters of Daniel Parvin Video Series*. These short answers can also be used as further talking points when discussing the films.

PART 1: INTRO

1. How many men did Iowa send to serve in the Civil War?
 - a) Over 25,000 men
 - b) Over 55,000 men
 - c) Over 75,000 men**
2. What is the soldier's name these videos are about (who wrote the letters)? **Daniel Parvin**
3. How many sons did he have? **3 (one born before the war, during the war, and after the war)**
4. To whom does he address his letters to? **Mainly Sarah, his wife, although they are meant to be shared with the extended family**
5. Which side did he fight for?
 - a) Union Army**
 - b) Confederate Army
6. Did he survive the war? **Yes, although he was injured**

PART 2: ENLISTMENT AND TRAINING (one question per letter)

1. How many men had to share a blanket? **Two**
2. What do they typically eat for breakfast? **Beans and bread (and dirt!)**
3. What do you think he means to "have a likeness taken"? **It means to have his photograph taken**
4. Can Daniel wear any hat he wants? **No, they would get punished if they wore something they weren't given orders, like wearing a hat vs a cap.**
5. How much did Daniel get paid for two months? **\$26 for two months of service.** How much does he send home? **\$25- almost all his earnings! This was typical of many soldiers.**
6. How long does Daniel think the war will go on? **He believed the war could go on for 10 years!**
7. Who takes care of Daniel when he gets sick at camp? **"The boys" AKA his fellow soldiers.**
8. Aside from beans and bread for breakfast, what else do they have to eat? **Raw bacon, hard crackers, and coffee.**

PART 3: PITTSBURGH LANDING (one question per letter, except for second letter which is split up between both actors- that will have two questions)

1. In the first letter, how many days were Daniel and his regiment in a fight? **Two days**
2.
 - a. Does Daniel have good things to say about General Grant? **No, he felt General Grant didn't do anything to help the battle- he thinks General Buel would have done better if he were in command.**

- b. Who are the “they” that took possession of Daniel’s camp? ***The Confederate soldiers.***
What did they take? ***They took everything but his Bible- they even robbed the dead soldiers!***
3. What does Daniel believe the “rebels” are fighting for? ***“I do not blame the rebel soldier so very much for they say that they are a-fighting for their bread and meat.”***

PART 4: CAMP NEAR CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI (short answer)

1. As a soldier, could Daniel do anything he wanted to while at camp? ***No, even in their camps when there was no fighting, the soldiers were still under command and had to perform several different jobs and duties.***
2. Was water plentiful in camp? How much could they have? ***No, water was pretty scarce - they had to haul water 5 miles back to camp and were only allowed so much each day, only enough to cook with and drink. If they wanted to wash their clothes, they had to get a pass to leave camp and find a stream to wash them.***

PART 5: SIEGE OF VICKSBURG (short answer)

1. How many Christmases has Daniel spent away from home? ***Three!***
2. Does Daniel think he’s doing a good thing by fighting in the war? ***Yes, he feels he’s doing a good thing in “trying to put down this dreadful rebellion.” He said he would not be fighting at all if he didn’t believe it was the right thing.***
3. Does Daniel re-enlist in the Union army? ***Yes. He doesn’t know if he will at first, and he makes the decision quickly. He even apologizes to Sarah because he thinks she might be mad at him for re-enlisting and not coming home from the war.***

PART 6: NEAR ATLANTA AND MARIETTA, GA

1. What is happening as Daniel is writing the first letter? ***They are getting shot at by the Confederates.***
2. What happened to Daniel? Did he live? ***Daniel was shot in the face in September 1864. He recovered in a hospital in Marietta, GA and was able to return home in February 1865.***
3. Where is Daniel buried? ***Daniel died in 1880 at the age of 53 and is buried Greenwood Cemetery, Muscatine.***