

Audie Murphy:
War Hero and Movie Star
Activity Book and Teacher Guide

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Introduction and Chapter 1

KWL Chart

Before starting to read Audie Murphy "War Hero and Movie Star," fill in the "What do you KNOW?" and "What do you WANT to know?" sections. As students read and come across information, have them fill in the "What did you LEARN?" section. Use this as a reflective tool throughout the entire book.

Before you read: What do you <u>KNOW</u> ?	Before you read: What do you <u>WANT</u> to know?	After you read: What did you <u>LEARN</u> ?
About the Dust Bowl?	About the Dust Bowl?	About the Dust Bowl?
About supply and demand of cotton?	About supply and demand of cotton?	About supply and demand of cotton?
Infantry service during WWII?	Infantry service during WWII?	Infantry service during WWII?
About learning to shoot in the mid- 1900's?	About learning to shoot in the mid- 1900's?	About learning to shoot in the mid- 1900's?
About World War II?	About World War II?	About World War II?

Introduction and Chapter 1

Timeline/Events

Directions: Given the list of events below, locate and fill in the dates of the events.

Rewrite the following events in sequential order. Example: In 2000, a United States postal stamp was dedicated in honor of Audie Murphy.

Date

Events

_____ Audie's mother dies. (year)

_____ Audie's father leaves the home. (year)

_____ The movie *To Hell and Back* is made. (year)

_____ Audie's private plane crashes. (month, day, year)

_____ Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. (month, day, year)

_____ Audie Murphy is born. (day, month, year)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

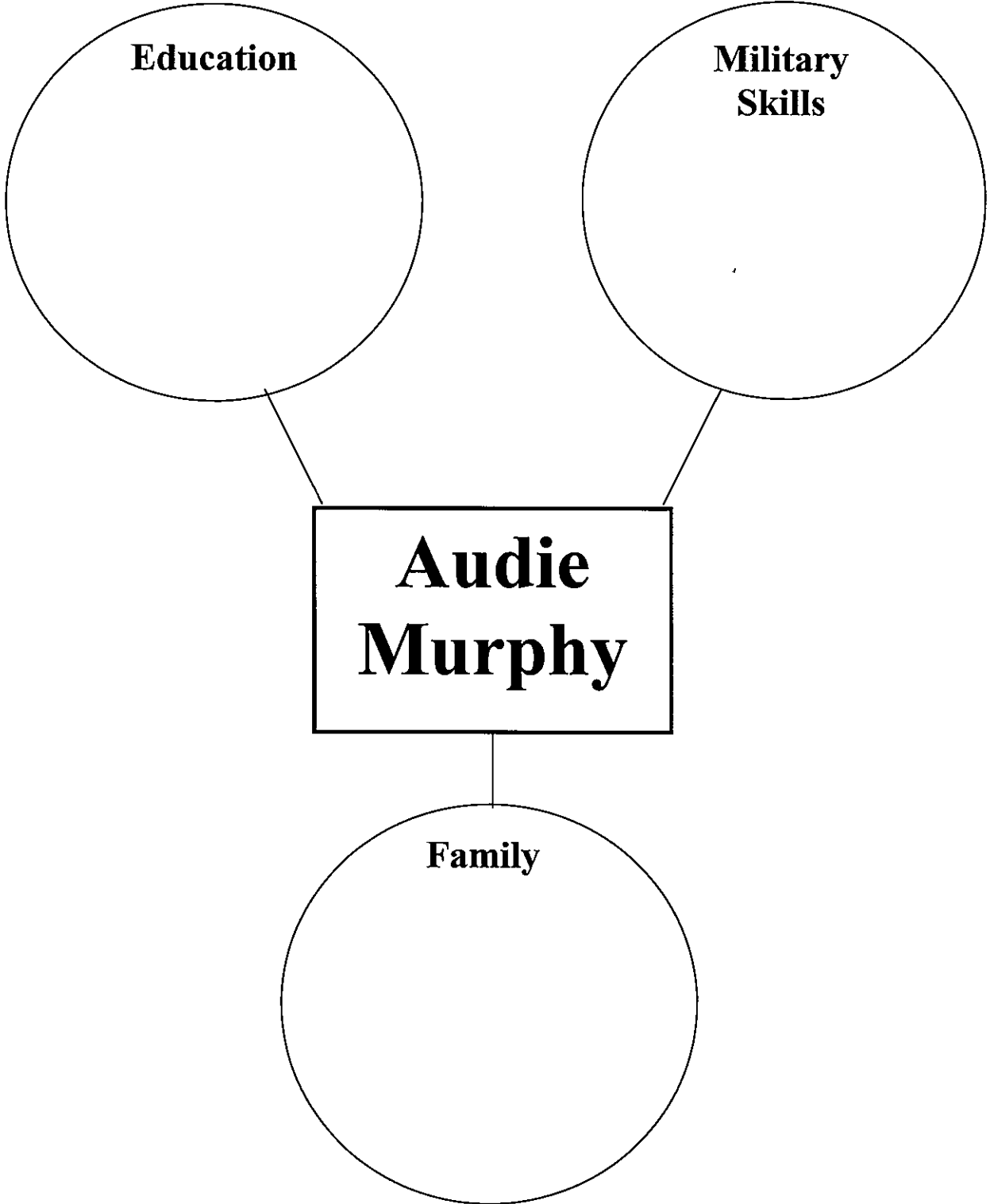
5. _____

6. _____

Introduction and Chapter 1 Post-reading Discussion Questions

- 1) What three events in American history shaped Audie's life?
- 2) What hardships did Audie's family face?
- 3) Who "discovered" Audie?
- 4) In what movie was Audie's life depicted?
- 5) What was the "Dust Bowl?"
- 6) What are the symptoms of post-traumatic stress syndrome?
- 7) How was Audie buried?
- 8) What is a "sharecropper?"
- 9) Why was Audie rejected for serving in the army?
- 10) What was Audie's full name?

Chapter 1 Childhood
Character Web



Chapter 2 The War Word Search

P	M	E	S	S	E	N	G	E	R
G	B	G	L	T	O	N	L	A	R
E	I	A	F	S	L	P	A	N	O
R	L	N	E	T	A	O	L	N	M
M	I	G	S	I	C	I	L	Y	E
A	G	R	G	T	D	U	I	S	D
N	A	E	U	K	I	L	E	S	A
S	T	N	P	T	O	P	S	L	L
I	I	E	O	C	A	S	T	B	R
N	O	R	M	A	N	D	Y	O	N
N	N	S	A	N	Z	I	O	G	N

Allies
Anzio
Sicily
Tipton
Germans
Messenger
Gangrene
Medal
Normandy

Chapter 2 Post-reading Discussion Questions

- 1) What was Audie's main role in North Africa?
Do you think he liked this role?
- 2) Would you be able to feel like you were contributing to the war effort if this was your main role?
- 3) Describe infantry warfare.
- 4) How does Audie defend killing the enemy?
Do you think this is right?
- 5) How was Audie's friend Lattie Tipton killed?
- 6) What event marked the turning point of the war?

Chapters 1 and 2 Quiz

True/False

1. Audie's family owned a small farm and grew corn to sell.

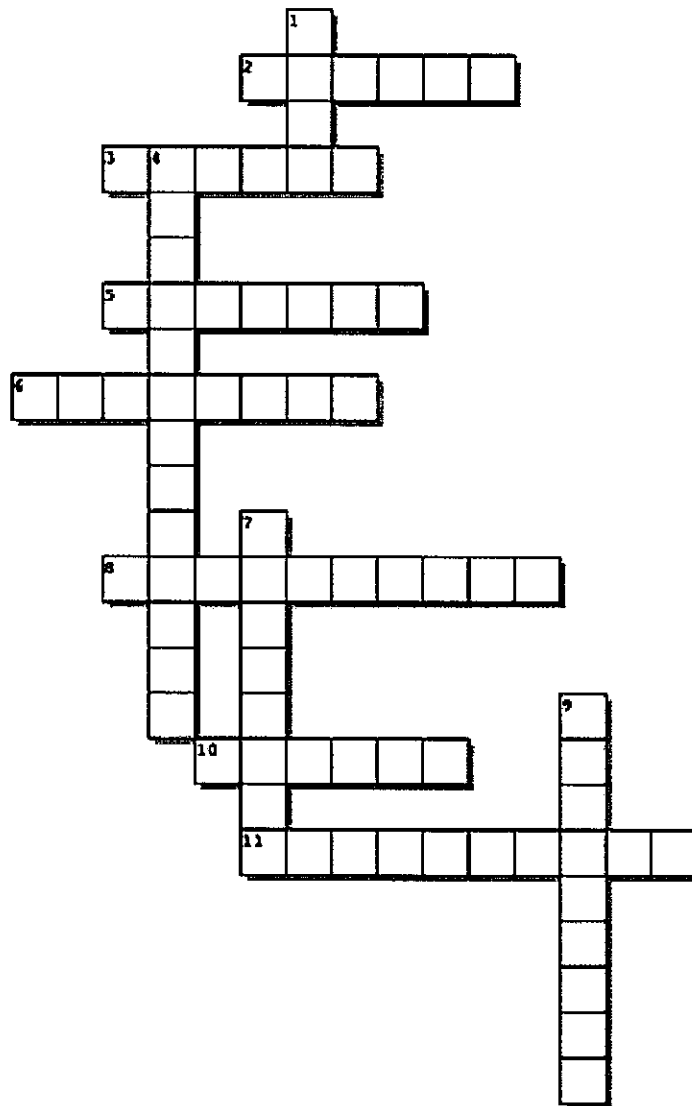
2. The Murphy home was without plumbing or electricity.
3. Audie learned to shoot so he could participate in county wide competitions.

4. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor propelled America into the war.
5. Audie was not allowed into the army because of his bad eye sight.

Multiple Choice

6. Which nation was not a part of the Allied Nations
A) United States
B) Italy
C) Great Britain
D) Russia
7. Where did Audie's family live during the times they were most poor?
A) In the school house
B) On the second floor of the restaurants
C) In a box car
D) Underneath a bridge
8. Which of the following is NOT true of Audie's military experience?
A) He served as a messenger.
B) He was quickly promoted to fight on the front lines.
C) He viewed killing the enemy as "part of the job."
D) He killed his first man at Sicily.
9. Which statement is TRUE of Audie's military service?
A) Audie won many of his medals for his service in the invasion of Normandy.
B) When Audie served as a lieutenant, he was in charge of the lives of 30-40 men.
C) He was wounded in his right shoulder.
D) Audie used a scarecrow as a decoy to distract the enemy.
10. Audie's life is recorded in what book and movie?
A) *From The Forefront to the Silver Screen*
B) *To Hell and Back*
C) *Neither Here nor There*
D) *Medals of Bravery*

Chapters 2 and 3 Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 2- Audie served as a messenger and runner here
- 3- Owned a production company
- 5- Name of Audie's sister
- 6- Audie visited wounded GI's here
- 8- Audie arrived to this Texas town on June 13, 1945
- 10- V-E Day stands for Victory in _____
- 11- Town that had a "Lt. Murphy Day"

Down

- 1- Featured Audie on the cover of this magazine
- 4- The movie To Hell and Back is an _____
- 7- Audie received his Congressional Medal of Honor here
- 9- Audie moved here to pursue his acting career

Chapter 3 Post-reading Discussion Questions

- 1) Why would towns that Audie had no connection with honor him with celebrations?
- 2) How did reporters respond to Audie's shyness?
- 3) How successful was Audie's first attempt at acting?
- 4) Describe Audie's feature in *Life Magazine*.

Chapter 4 Book Movie Match-up Memory Game

Have the children divide into groups. Let them cut out each square on the dotted line. Shuffle the squares, then lay them out in rows and columns. The first player draws two cards. If the player believes the cards match, the player must look up where the movie or book is discussed in Chapter 4. If it matches, the player reads the segment aloud and gets to keep the matched movie/description. If not, the pieces are laid back down, shuffled, and it is the next player's turn. When all of the squares have been matched, the player who received the most matches wins!

<i>Texas, Brooklyn, and Heaven</i>	David "Spec" McClure helped get Audie this part in what unsuccessful movie?
<u>To Hell and Back</u> (novel)	This autobiographical book was published just after Audie's marriage to Wanda.
<i>Bad Boy</i>	This movie, written about a juvenile delinquent, got Audie a contract with Universal Studios.
<i>Sierra</i>	This movie starred Audie and his (then) wife Wanda.

<i>The Kid From Texas</i>	This is Audie's first movie with Universal Studios.
<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	This movie is based on Stephen Crane's novel about a young soldier in the Civil War.
<i>No Name on the Bullet</i>	This movie was the best western Audie ever made.
<i>To Hell and Back</i> (movie)	This movie was made from Audie's autobiography, To Hell and Back.

Chapter 4 Post-reading Discussion Questions

- 1) What did Audie struggle with as an actor?
- 2) Why would Audie become “fussy” about the roles he would accept?
- 3) What critical change in technology caused Audie to change his career?
- 4) What did Audie shift to when he stopped making movies?
- 5) Describe “battle fatigue.”
- 6) How would post-traumatic stress affect everyday life?
- 7) Near the end of his life Audie was thought to be involved with what?
- 8) How did Audie Murphy die?
- 9) In what ways was Audie honored even after his death?

Book Review Timeline/ Events Activity

Match the date with the event. List the answer as (letter) year

A. 1924

B. 1945

C. 2000

D. 1943

E. 1944

F. 1965

1. Audie chooses to return home to Texas, where he receives a hero's welcome.

() _____

2. Audie's contract as an actor for Universal Studios is not renewed.

() _____

3. Audie and his company are stationed in Sicily.

() _____

4. Leon Audie Murphy is born.

() _____

5. Allied invasion of the French beaches of Normandy.

() _____

6. After Audie's death, a U.S. postal stamp was dedicated in his honor.

() _____

Audie Murphy: War Hero and Movie Star
Book Test

TRUE / FALSE

1. Audie was immediately given the role of gunman in the infantry.

2. Audie married his high school sweetheart, and they made movies together in Hollywood after the war.

3. Audie's picture on the cover of *Life Magazine* was one of his first experiences with fame.

4. A friend wrote first person accounts of Audie's experiences in the war for the newspaper.

5. Audie struggled with acting because of his Texas drawl and farmer-like walk.

6. Audie learned to shoot small game as a child.

7. Audie worried about the danger of war and did not want to fight.

8. When Audie got home from the war, even bowls of black-eyed peas could trigger memories of the war.

9. Audie risked his life by hopping in a burning tank to defend his men against the Germans.

10. Write your own TRUE statement about Audie.

Multiple Choice

11. After playing parts in failed movies, Audie decided to
 - A) Write and produce movies
 - B) Be more fussy when choosing movie parts.
 - C) Act on Broadway.
 - D) Give up completely

12. In the early 1960's, Audie found a new career path in
 - A) Writing country music lyrics
 - B) Giving acting lessons
 - C) Teaching military history
 - D) Working in a lumber yard

13. Audie struggled with all but
 - A) Embezzling money from Universal Pictures
 - B) Addiction to prescription drugs
 - C) Gambling
 - D) An attachment to guns

14. When Audie was first stationed in North Africa, he served _____
 - A) As a medic
 - B) On the radios
 - C) As a messenger
 - D) As a mechanic

15. Which is NOT true of Audie's family?
 - A) He grew up without plumbing or electricity.
 - B) Audie's mother died before he went to war.
 - C) His father was a "share cropper".
 - D) His father pushed his children to get a college education.

Essays

Pick two of the following essay questions. Answer the question or write to the prompt using details from the text.

- 1) What obstacles did Audie face when he entered the field of acting?
- 2) Describe Audie's childhood.
- 3) How was Audie received upon returning home to the U.S.?

Answer Key

Events/Timeline pg. 5

1. June 20, 1924, found on page 15
2. 1940, found on page 18
3. 1941, found on page 19
4. December 7, 1941, found on page 20
5. 1955, found on pages 12,32,42, and 59
6. May 28, 1971, found on page 14

Crossword Puzzle pg 11

Across

2. Sicily page 23
3. Cagney page 40
5. Corinne page 35
6. McKinney page 36
8. San Antonio page 35
10. Europe page 33
11. Greenville page 36

Down

1. Life page 36
4. Autobiography page 32
7. Salzburg page 33
9. Hollywood page 40

Word Search page 8

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P M E S S E N G E R
G B G L T O N L A R
E I A F S L P A N O
R L N E T A O L N M
M I G S I C I L Y E
A G R G T D U I S D
N A E U K I L E S A
S T N P T O R S L L
I I E O C A S T B R
N O R M A N D Y O N
N N S A N Z I O G N
    
```

Review Timeline pg 16

1. (B) 1945 page 35
2. (F) 1965 page 48
3. (D) 1943 page 23
4. (A) 1924 page 15
5. (E) 1944 pages 25, 26
6. (C) 2000 page 52

Chapters 1 and 2 Quiz pg. 10

1. F pages 10, 15, 16
2. T page 15
3. F page 19
4. T page 20
5. F page 20
6. B page 20
7. C page 18
8. B pages 21, 23, 24
9. B pages 26, 29, 30
10. B pages 12, 32

Book Test

1. F page 21
 2. F page 42
 3. T page 38
 4. T page 39
 5. T pages 41, 42
 6. T page 19
 7. F pages 20, 21, 23
 8. T page 39
 9. T page 31
 10. Grade student work
 11. B page 44
 12. A page 47
 13. A pages 19, 24, 27, 28, 49
 14. C page 23
 15. D pages 10, 15, 16, 18, 19
- ESSAYS

Answer Key: Discussion Questions

Introduction and Chapter 1 Discussion pg 6

1. The Great Depression in the 1930's, World War II of the 1940's and a Hollywood Career which began in the early 1950's. (pg 9)
2. His family was in poverty and the Depression and drought had settled over the region. (pg 9,19)
3. Actor James Cagney. (pg 12)
4. The 1955 movie To Hell and Back (pg 12)
5. The drought that the Great Plains Region suffered during the 1930's. (pg 13)
6. Nervousness, sleeplessness, hallucinations, and inability to adjust to life in modern society. (pg 13)
7. With full Military Honors at Arlington National Cemetery. (pg 14)
8. A farmer who doesn't own the land he farms or the house his family lives in. (pg 15)
9. Because he was too young (he was not yet eighteen). (pg 20)
10. Leon Audie Murphy (pg 15)

Chapter 3 Discussion pg 12

1. Because they claimed him as one of their own. (pg 35)
2. They loved him even more and followed him everywhere. (pg 35)
3. It was a failure. (pg 39)
4. It was a close-up portrait of him that showed his youthful face, his freckles, and his pleasant smile. He was in uniform and looked like an all American hero. A photo essay inside featured several more pictures of him in Farmersville. (pg 38)

Chapter 2 Discussion pg 9

1. He was a messenger behind the lines and resented being assigned a safe position. (pg 23)
2. Grade Students Work
3. Close-range combat filled with danger, fatigue, and nervous strain. (pg 23)
4. It's his job. Grade students work (pg 24)
5. He was killed when he believed that the German's wanted to surrender. (pg 26)
6. In spring of 1945, 10,000 Germans were taken prisoner and when the remaining Germans surrendered. (pg 33)

Chapter 4 Discussion pg 15

1. He walked like a farmer and had to be taught to walk all over again. He also had a heavy Texas drawl. (pg 41,42)
2. Because Spec got him a part in a bad movie titled Texas, Brooklyn, and Heaven. (pg 44)
3. Television sets and the fact that most families had one in their homes. (pg 47)
4. He went from movies, to television, to writing lyrics for country western music. (pg 47)
5. He still had nightmares, was nervous, became angry, and unable to sleep. (pg 48)
6. Men were expected to readjust to everyday life but had a hard time leaving the war behind. (pg 49)
7. The Mafia (pg 50)
8. In a plane that crashed in the mountains in West Virginia (pg 50)
9. A large granite memorial was placed at the site of the plane crash. A veteran's hospital in San Antonio, Texas, was dedicated in his honor. June 20 was named Audie Murphy day in Texas. (pg 51)