1. In the story "Chickamauga" by Ambrose Bierce, what is ironic about what frightens the boy?

2. What does the first paragraph teach us about the boy’s education? How does this set us up for our understanding of what the boy does in the forest before coming across the soldiers?

3. Locate and describe an instance in which they boy’s perspective fails to grasp the horror that surrounds him.

4. How does the author use realism and romanticism to convey the loss of innocence in Chickamauga?

5. What is an example of symbolism in Chickamauga? Describe fully what it is a symbol of and provide evidence from the text.

6. How is death portrayed in Chickamauga? Give textual details

7. Bierce switches between a child’s point of view and making clear to the reader what the child is really seeing. Why does Bierce decide to tell this story from the eyes of a child? What is the effect of this choice?

8. Give an example of how a specific spot in the text would change if the work were told from a different point of view.

9. The boy thinks of the soldiers as clowns, and he also tries to play horse on a wounded soldier. What do you believe Bierce is trying to get across to the reader through these experiences of the child?

10. How would you describe the depiction of war in the story in one to two words? Provide evidence from the text to support your assertion.

11. What is the significance of the little boy’s sword? What is the significance of it being thrown into the fire at the end?

12. How do we know this is an anti-war story? What textual evidence does the story provide?

13. What do you believe is the main theme of the story? Provide evidence for this theme.

14. How does finding out that the child is a deaf-mute at the end of the story change your understanding of the events?

15. Why make this child a deaf-mute for the story? What sort of deeper meaning might this choice have? (think about the child as a symbol)