



Created by: Amanda Goodwin, Triad Local Middle School

Grade level: 8

Primary Source Citation: S. Boyer Davis letter to Goldsborough and Hollingsworth from Johnson's Island Prison. February 16, 1885. Sandusky Library/Follett House Museum, Johnson's Island Prison Collection, accessed on *Ohio Memory*, <http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/p267401coll36&CISOPTR=19222&REC=1>.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the letter located at the above link while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. When was this letter written?
2. Using your social studies textbook, find out the date that the Civil War ended. Was this letter written before or after the end of the war and how long?
3. Where was S. Boyer David being held? Using a map of Ohio locate the specific location of the prison.

Level II: Interpretation

1. After reading this letter, what do you determine is about to happen to S. Boyer Davis?
2. How does he feel about the event that is about to happen?

Level III: Analysis

1. What kinds of hardships do you think prisoners experienced in these camps during the Civil War?
2. How do you think prisoners of war are treated differently now?
3. Do you think what happened to S. Boyer Davis was fair?

Johnson's Island, Ohio, 16th Feb. 1865.

My dear friends

Time is short. Let one letter
be for both. Friday is near, only tomorrow. But
God's will be done. Hope seems almost ridiculous,
but like a drowning man I catch at straws. I am
thank God, the same man I was a week ago. Fearness
has no effect on me - I'm only going to bed a little earlier
tonight - you will all follow soon. I have done my duty,
I die submissive to God's will, I am not afraid to die; only

^{to} Tell all my friends & companions, when they meet & crowd around
to hear my mournful story in the good old Richmond town.
Tell them I died a man, a soldier with a clear conscience,
a firm trust in God, and ashamed of nothing I have done
Farewell, my dear friends. May a long and happy
life be yours. Farewell

S. Boyer Davis

To
Goldsborough & Hollingsworth.

Johnson's Island, Ohio. 16th Feb. 1865.

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S. Boyer Davis

To

Goldsborough + Hollingsworth