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This passage is about Molly Pitcher, one of several women who played a part in the Revolutionary War. Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

Molly Pitcher

Bullets flew by. Sweat poured off the soldiers. Some collapsed, overcome by the heat. One gunner, however, calmly kept loading the cannon to fire at the British troops.

What made this gunner so special? She was a woman. This amazing woman's name was Molly Pitcher. Molly's real name was Mary. Her last name was believed to be Ludwig. When her husband, William Hays, joined the Continental Army as a gunner, she went along. She camped with the soldiers. She cooked for them and did their wash. Like the soldiers, Mary suffered through the hard times at Valley Forge during the harsh winter of 1777–1778.

Mary earned her nickname at the Battle of Monmouth, in New Jersey on June 28, 1778. She hadn't planned to fight in the battle, which took place on one of the hottest days in June. She was helping by carrying pitchers of cool spring water to the tired soldiers. The water was not for drinking. Instead, it was to help the soldiers keep cool. This is how Mary earned her nickname "Molly Pitcher." Molly was a common nickname for women named Mary.

Molly Pitcher was a woman with much strength. During the battle, she carried a crippled Continental soldier on her back. She carried him until he was out of danger. Then her husband fell beside his cannon. Some people say that he was a victim of heatstroke. Others say that he was wounded during the battle. Mary took his place at the cannon. She continued to load and fire it. She fought until the battle was won. This was the second time in history that a woman manned a gun on an American battlefield. The first was Margaret Corbin during the 1776 defense of Fort Mifflin on the Delaware River.



Molly's first husband William Hays died in 1783. Mary then remarried. Her second husband was John McCauley. Mary continued to live a quiet life. She became a housekeeper and nurse.

General Washington recognized Molly for her role in the war. He issued her a warrant as a noncommissioned officer. In 1822, she was given a yearly pension of \$40. This pension was for her part in the war. Mary died January 22, 1832. She was 78 years old. Molly's heroic actions have not been forgotten. A flagstaff, cannon, and statue of Molly stand at her gravesite in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, her hometown. She is also remembered by a sculpture on the battle monument. The sculpture commemorates her courageous deeds.

SAMPLE



Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the passage that you just read. Read each one and then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you're not sure, go back and look at the passage again.

1. Molly's real name was

- (A) Mary Pitcher
- (B) Molly Ludwig
- (C) Mary Ludwig
- (D) Molly Pitcher

Factual

2. Why do you suppose Mary stayed with the army throughout the harsh winter at Valley Forge?

- (A) She believed in the cause of independence.
- (B) She wanted to stick with her husband.
- (C) She thought she was needed.
- (D) all of the above

Critical Reasoning

3. Why did the soldiers give Mary the nickname of "Molly Pitcher" during the Battle of Monmouth?

- (A) She pretended she was a baseball pitcher.
- (B) She carried pitchers of water to the American troops.
- (C) She carried pitchers of water to the British troops.
- (D) She always drank a pitcher of water before she fired the cannon.

Inference

4. You can tell that the Battle of Monmouth was made harder for the Continental Army because

- (A) it was so hot
- (B) there were women in the camp
- (C) it was so cold
- (D) the soldiers couldn't fire the cannons

Inference



Summing Up



Characters are described in terms of **character traits**. Character traits tell the specific qualities of the character. They are the same kinds of words that you might use to describe yourself or others. The author may directly state these traits, but most of the time, the reader must draw a conclusion about the character's traits. The character's actions, thoughts, and discussions help the reader draw conclusions about the character's traits. The character map below shows a character trait of Molly Pitcher and evidence from the story that assists the reader in inferring that Molly possesses this trait. Use the facts from the passage to help you complete the rest of the diagram.



