

Texas Tides Document Analysis Sheet # 2 - Grade 7

Teaching excerpt: a letter to Dr. R. D. Bone from his wife Minerva.

State of Texas, Nacogdoches Co.
March the 23 1862

Dear Dr Bone,

I received your letter yesterday evening dated the 17.... I don't know what would be for the best, but I don't want you to join the war. I don't think that is right, the way they are doing. It looks like it's too hard. I think twelve months is a long time for you to be gone. It looks mighty hard to see men leave their wives and children and homes... I hope the good lord will be on our side faster.... I am well. Watson and Winsted are well. Watson was sick last week. I reckoned it was worms that ailed him....Some times I wish you could see them and see how sweet they look and they) are smart, too....It goes hard with me to do without your presence. If I could meet with you I would be happy but if we don't meet in this world, I hope and pray we will meet in a happier one, and then we will be happy I know. Honey, pray for us. Our lives are uncertain, but I hope if it is the good lord's will, we will meet again and be happy.

There is a right smart of excitement here about the war. I here that the negroes say that they are going to rise [up] when this regiment gets up here. At Jim town, I heard some say that there was thirty or forty a drilling one another up there close to a widow woman's house. She heard them talking. They said they were going to give the Jim town fellows a fight that they chat down here. There was a mighty stir made when Mr. Whitaker and Norvel was fixing to start. I think there will be danger here if any more men leave. I don't want you to join if you can help it. If you do [join], come home and see me if you can. Your precious face to me is worth everything else in this world. I want you to write as often as you can....O may the good lord be with us until we meet again. May god bless you my Dear. Good bye, my love. A kiss for you.

G. M Bone

Answer the following questions, using this letter. Underline important sentences to help answer the questions.

What is the date of the letter? _____

Who wrote it? _____ To whom was it written? _____

According to your textbook, was Texas involved in the Civil War yet?

From clues given in the letter, why do you think that the author wrote this letter?

Mrs. Bone has mixed personal and political news and concerns in this letter.

List personal concerns _____

List political information _____

Why do you think that this letter was written? Use quotes from the document as evidence.

What have you learned from this letter about Texas History?
