

Bookfolio for Across Five Aprils

Author: [Irene Hunt](#)

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Recommended for: [Grades 4-6](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Historical Fiction](#)

Story Summary: ACROSS FIVE APRILS describes the tragic story of the Civil War for Matthew Creighton's family with loved ones fighting on both the Confederate and Union sides. It is April, 1861, the year Fort Sumter surrenders to the Confederacy. Instead, it is five Aprils before the end comes at Appomatox Court House. In the beginning, Matt's nine-year-old son, Jethro, thinks war is exciting and wonderful as he hears his brothers talk of their experiences. Jethro's brother Bill chooses to fight for the Confederacy, while Jethro's other brothers, John and Tom, and his cousin, Eb, fight for the Union. Jethro experiences the war through letters from his brothers and beloved teacher, by word-of-mouth, and from reading the newspapers. He and his sister Jenny help carry the burden of running the farm and preserving the family unit during the war-torn years. Although the nation is divided, family members, neighbors, and friends rally to help one another. By the end of the book, Jethro's enthusiasm for war changes to hatred for the cruelty and senseless loss of lives.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 2, (page 31-42).

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:

R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

Across Five Aprils - Independent Activities	Skills
1. One Family's Perspective (Giving a book talk)	R , S
2. Jethro's Letters (Writing a letter)	R , S , W
3. The Gettysburg Address (Reading a speech)	R , S
4. Artist at the Front Line (Drawing a scene from the story)	D
5. Time Line (Making a time line)	D , R
6. Maps as Illustrations (Making a map)	D , R
Across Five Aprils - Group Activities	Skills
1. Photographs of Lincoln (Examining a story element)	L , S
2. The Chapter of Our Choice (Presenting a Readers Theatre)	R , S
3. Five Battlegrounds (Writing a report)	D , R , S , W
4. "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" (Discussing the lyrics of a war song)	R , S
5. Generals' Interview (Conducting an interview)	R , S , W
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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