

Glory

(school rated version of the movie)

Description: *Glory* tells the story of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the Massachusetts 54th Volunteer Regiment, the first regular U.S. army unit composed of black soldiers during the Civil War as a result of the Emancipation Proclamation. Colonel Shaw, a white abolitionist, and hundreds of black volunteers in his regiment, set out to prove that black men could fight as well as whites in the armies of the mid-1800's. The movie was released in 1989 and stars Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington, Cary Elwes, and Morgan Freeman.

(Questions are not necessarily in order; some questions may be answered in multiple scenes throughout the movie.)

1. What color uniforms did the Union (Northern) army wear? Confederate (Southern) army?
2. How does the attitude of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw toward African-Americans change throughout the movie and why?
3. What different personal backgrounds exist among the black soldiers who make up the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry? What does this tell you about the different experiences of blacks in 1800's America? Think about their region of origin, former status (free/slave), and educational background.
4. Were blacks treated equally to whites in the Union army? Explain.
5. What is significant about Colonel Shaw's decision to refuse (rip up) his paycheck?
6. Describe the results of the 54th fighting to capture Fort Wagner (the big sand castle fort)?
7. Did the movie end as you expected? What feelings/thoughts were you left with?
8. What scene in the movie affected you most and why?
9. Why is the movie titled "Glory?"