

Take a Closer Look



Name: _____

Extension - *The Retreat from New York*

Directions: Navigate to <https://considerthesourcenyc.org/document/retreat-new-york-poem-written-soldier-american-revolution-nd> to read the poem, *The Retreat from New York*. After you have read the poem, answer the questions below.

1. What rhythm scheme does this poem use? _____
2. How many stanzas does the poem have? _____

Spelling was not standardized until the early 19th Century.. Did you notice any words that seemed misspelled?

3. List three of the “misspelled” words on the lines below. Next to the word write how it is spelled today.

“Misspelled” word from poem	Word as it is spelled today

4. Write a phrase from the poem where you had to use the context clues to help you understand one of the “misspelled” words.

5. Who is speaking in the poem? Is it a soldier, a general, or someone else? How do you know? Use details from the poem to support your answer.

6. Why do you think the poet wrote this poem? Was it to tell a story, to honor the soldiers, or to teach something? Use details from the poem to support your answer.

7. Stanzas one through ten talk about the Battle of Long Island. From Stanza 10 until the end of the poem, the poet is writing about the Battle of Harlem Heights. Using details from the poem, tell how each battle ended.

The Battle of Long Island

The Battle of Harlem Heights

Take a Closer Look



Name: KEY

Extension - *The Retreat from New York*

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1. What rhythm scheme does this poem use? The rhythm scheme of this poem is AABB.
2. How many stanzas does the poem have? This poem has 15 stanzas. (They are numbered in the image)

Spelling was not standardized until the early 19th Century.. Did you notice any words that seemed misspelled?

3. List three of the “misspelled” words on the lines below. Next to the word write how it is spelled today.

“Misspelled” word from poem	Word as it is spelled today

4. Write a phrase from the poem where you had to use the context clues to help you understand one of the “misspelled” words.

5. Who is speaking in the poem? Is it a soldier, a general, or someone else? How do you know? Use details from the poem to support your answer.

I think a soldiers is speaking in this poem. In stanza one it says, “How we were obliged to retreat.” This sounds like the person speaking was one there. It also says in stanza 3, “Our generals sent strict command...”. This sounds like the person is not one of the generals, but one of the soldiers taking orders from the generals.

6. Why do you think the poet wrote this poem? Was it to tell a story, to honor the soldiers, or to teach something? Use details from the poem to support your answer.

I think the poet wrote this poem to tell a story. The first stanza starts out, "Come all you soldiers far & Near; A true relation you shall hear...". This sounds like the poet is inviting people to hear a story about the battle.

7. Stanzas one through ten talk about the Battle of Long Island. From Stanza 10 until the end of the poem, the poet is writing about the Battle of Harlem Heights. Using details from the poem, tell how each battle ended.

The Battle of Long Island

The Americans lost the Battle of Long Island. In stanza 7 the last line says, "Therefore my boys were put to (the) worst." It goes on in 9 to say, "We made the best of our Escape; To Read us of the Dismal fate...". This means that they retreated. When an army retreats it has lost the battle.

The Battle of Harlem Heights

The Americans won the Battle of Harlem Heights. I know this because in stanza 14 it says, "Come now my boys and Chear up your Souls.... We'll tell the battle we have won and sing Huzzar for Washington!". The text says to be cheerful and tell how they won this battle, and to cheer for General Washington.