Hippolyta’s Daughter

“I’m Hippolyta’s daughter,” Samira said, using her mother’s code name. “Yes, I recognize you,” said the Maquis leader. “My name is Odysseus.”

Code Names (Greek Mythology)

**Hippolyta** - Amazonian queen who possessed a magical girdle

**Odysseus** - Greek king of Ithaca and the hero of Homer’s epic poem the Odyssey

**Perseus** - beheaded the Gorgon Medusa for Polydectes and saved Andromeda from the sea monster Cetus

**Jason of the Argonauts** - famed for his expedition with the Argonauts - as the sailors on their ship the Argo were known - in search of the Golden Fleece in Kolchis on the Black Sea

**Atalanta** - huntress, unwilling to marry, and loved by the hero Meleager

Discussion

Why do you think the Maquis selected heroes from Greek Mythology for their code names?

Which name would you select for yourself if you were in a Resistance fighter? Explain how this Greek hero represents you.

© Gay Miller
Reinforcements

The private took a peek over the wall and ducked back down just before a German bullet hit the top of the wall, kicking up the kind of mortar that held rock walls together. “Friendly,” the private said.

“Yeah, they’re regular Betty Boops,” said James.

The redheaded soldier shook his head. “A two-inch shell’s not gonna do any good against that bunker they’ve got protecting it. It’s just gonna tickle the top of it.”

Betty Boop was an animated cartoon character. She was a carefree reminder of the days of the Jazz Age flappers.

Discussion

Explain the meaning behind the phrase “they’re regular Betty Boops.”

Gratz uses both sarcasm and hyperbole in the excerpt from Allies. Why would doing this when the characters are facing danger enhance the story?

Famous People in the 1940’s

Alan Gratz added several famous people to his story.

Hank Greenberg - professional baseball player primarily for the Detroit Tigers

Joe DiMaggio - American baseball center fielder who played his entire 13-year career in Major League Baseball for the New York Yankees

Groucho Marx - American comedian, writer, stage, film, radio, and television star (considered one of America’s greatest comedians)

Humphrey Bogart - American film and theater actor - considered greatest male star of classic American cinema

Discussion

Alan Gratz included famous people of the 1930’s-1940’s to his story.

Explain why this was a good decision by Gratz.

© Gay Miller
Burst Balloons

As a medic, Henry had been trained to keep his patients talking—in part to help them stay conscious, and in part to distract them from the sometimes-nauseating things he had to do to them. “Where ya from?” was the question all soldiers ended up asking each other when they first met, even if they were never going to see each other again. Henry, who loved movies, liked to ask everyone what their favorite film was instead. He got a lot of good ones that day—King Kong, The Wizard of Oz, Frankenstein, The Thin Man, Robin Hood, Gunga Din. All movies Henry had seen again and again in the theater. While he talked movies, Henry extracted bullets. Bandaged wounds. Sedated shock victims.

Discussion

How does adding film titles to Allies enhance the story?

William the Conqueror and Bayeux Tapestry

“You know what’s funny?” Bill told his crewmates while they waited. “Almost nine hundred years ago, William the Conqueror and the Normans left from just about this very place in France”—he nodded toward the shore—“and invaded England. Battle of Hastings and all that. And now we’re going back! The English invading Normandy.”……

“I’m named for him, you know. William the Conqueror,” Bill went on, ignoring Davies. “William Richards, see? That’s why I took an interest. All me brothers and sisters are named for English kings and queens too. Richie, Bess, Vicky, George, and Henry.” Bill thought of his siblings back home and smiled.

Discussion

Alan Gratz provides a number of details about William the Conqueror and the Bayeux Tapestry in Allies.

Did you find this interesting? Explain why or why not.

How did adding Bill’s interests about William the Conqueror add to the story?
Visit my website at
http://bookunitsteacher.com/

Visit me on Pinterest at
http://www.pinterest.com/lindagaymiller/

Teachers Pay Teachers
http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Gay-Miller

Allies
Printable + Digital Book Unit

Activities for Google Slides
Includes BOOM Learning™
Created by Gay Miller