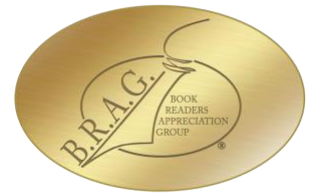


# Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory

## \*A Teacher's Guide\*

Created by Marcie Colleen.  
Based on the picture book  
written by C. Behrens and  
illustrated by Bryan Werts.

This classroom guide is designed  
for students in first through third  
grade. Teachers are expected to  
adapt each activity to fit their  
students' needs and abilities.



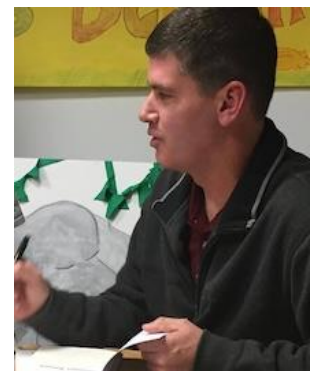
It offers activities to help teachers integrate *Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory* into the curriculum.

All activities were created using Common Core and other relevant content standards.

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## C. (Chris) Behrens

*Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory* received the 2025 Indie BRAG Medallion and the Finalist Award in the 2025 Readers' Favorite International Book Contest! Behrens' first book, *Savanna's Treasure* (a children's chapter book), received the Silver Medal in the 2015 Moonbeam Awards and was featured in the prestigious Booklist magazine – September 2024. His poem, *A Basketball's Ditty*, earned an award from Writer's Digest in 2023 and is now a wonderful picture book. To contact Chris via email: [behrenscb32@aol.com](mailto:behrenscb32@aol.com)



## Book Description

From a young orphan boy to a Founding Father of America, Alexander Hamilton's journey to greatness started with a simple boyhood wish for war. Through hard work, perseverance, and a little bit of good fortune, Hamilton became an American hero and accomplished feats that still inspire us today. This captivating children's book also teaches valuable lessons about determination and the power of dreams. Don't miss out on this inspiring tale of a young boy who wished for war and went on to change the course of history!

## Before You Read...

Before reading *Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory*...

Look closely at the Front Cover ~

- Describe what you see.
- Who do you think the man is? What is he doing?
- Imagine you are the man in the illustration. How does this pose make you feel?
- When do you think this story takes place? Today or a long time ago? What clues on the cover tell you this?
- Can you guess what the story might be about? What are some clues that tell you the setting?

## English Language Arts

### Reading Comprehension

Now read or listen to the book.

Help students summarize in their own words what the book is about.

- Who was Alexander Hamilton? On a large piece of paper, draw an outline of a human figure to represent Alexander.
  - As you read *Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory*, write any known details about Hamilton inside the outline. Outside of the outline, discuss and write any questions about Hamilton that you might have.
- Alexander Hamilton was not born in America. Where was he born?
  - Find where Alexander Hamilton was born on a map.
  - Research information and images of Hamilton's birthplace on the Internet.
- Describe what Alexander Hamilton's life was like as a child.
  - Research Alexander Hamilton's immediate family (his father, mother, brother, and adopted family).
  - How would you describe his family life?
  - How is his life different from yours?
  - Are there any similarities to your life?
- Because of his impressive writing about the hurricane that hit his island, Alexander was sent to America to study. Read segments of this writing here:  
[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Letter\\_by\\_Alexander\\_Hamilton\\_on\\_the\\_hurricane\\_of\\_August\\_1772](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Letter_by_Alexander_Hamilton_on_the_hurricane_of_August_1772)

- Why do you think Hamilton wanted to write about the hurricane?
- Why do you think people were impressed by this writing?
- Listen to the song “Hurricane (clean version)” from the musical *Hamilton*. Raise your hand, or make notes, when you hear information that was included in the first pages of *Alexander Hamilton’s Wish for Battlefield Glory* and his letter. How many references can you find?
- What did Alexander Hamilton study in college?
- Who were the Corsicans?
- List the many leadership positions and actions that Alexander Hamilton took during the Revolutionary War.
- “Alexander soon found that most of warfare wasn’t about being a hero.” Describe his experience that led him to this conclusion in your own words.
- What is the job of an aide-de-camp?

#### **Author’s Note**

- Alexander Hamilton is remembered as an American Founding Father. What is a Founding Father? Explain in your own words.
- Can you name any other Founding Fathers? Make a list and then research to see if you are correct.
- After the Revolutionary War, why was the Constitution needed?
  - What role did Hamilton play in creating and putting the Constitution into place?
- President George Washington appointed Alexander Hamilton as his Secretary of the Treasury. What is the role and purpose of the Secretary of the Treasury? Research on the Internet.
  - Alexander Hamilton was the first Secretary of the Treasury. Using the internet, research who the current Secretary of the Treasury is.
  - How many Secretaries of the Treasury have there been?
- In what ways did Hamilton use his position as Secretary of the Treasury to strengthen America?
- How did Alexander Hamilton die?
  - What is a duel? Watch the following video for more information:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7krriXVaRk>
  - On YouTube, search for videos about the Hamilton-Burr duel. Watch a few of these videos and create a newspaper with a headline about the duel, detailing what you find. One link to watch is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3z7aBj4SbI>

Let’s talk about the people who made *Alexander Hamilton’s Wish for Battlefield Glory*.

- Who is the author?
- Who is the illustrator?
- What kind of work did each person do to make the book?

Now, let's look closely at the illustrations.

- Look closely at how people are dressed in *Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory*.
- Print out images from the Internet of clothing styles during the American Revolutionary War era.
- Draw your own character wearing clothing from this time period.
- Display the finished drawings in the classroom.

## Reading Nonfiction

While reading *Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory* aloud to the class, have students take notes in two columns:

- *Things We Learned*
- *Questions We Have*

Pause before each page turn to add notes to the columns. These columns can be completed individually or displayed on the board to work on as a class.

Things We Learned (Facts)	Questions We Have	Answers We Found

- Once the story is read, discuss the *Questions We Have* column.
  - Were any of these questions answered as the story went along?
  - If so, ask students to find the answer within the text.
  - Record the answer next to the question in a third column labeled *Answers We Found*.
- For all remaining questions in the *Questions We Have* column that have yet to be answered, students will need to take the steps to find answers, either through the Internet or book research.
  - Discuss how to find answers to questions through research.
  - Assign students to specific questions to help them focus.
  - Record all answers in the *Answers We Found* column.
- After the answers have been shared with the class, engage in a discussion on research practices.
  - What was the most difficult thing about finding answers?
  - Was it easier to find answers on the Internet or in a book?
  - Which source is more reliable, the Internet or a printed book? Why?
  - How can you determine whether to trust a source?
  - What tips would you give to someone about to do research?

- Read the Author's Note at the back of the book.
  - Create an additional chart to document what information in the Author's Note was included in the story and what information was not included.
  - Why do you think Behrens chose to include certain information and leave other information to the Author's Note?
  - Choose three facts from the Author's Note and explain why you think each wasn't included in the story.

*Extension:* Design and illustrate posters representing each Fact, Question, and researched Answer based on *Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory*, and display them within the classroom.

### **Vocab Detectives**

*Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory* has some new and challenging vocabulary, mostly related to the American Revolutionary War.

Reread the story aloud and ask students to listen carefully for words they do not know.

- As soon as they come across an unknown word, they should raise their hand.
- Repeat the phrase using the unknown word. What might it mean, based on context?
- Look up the word in the dictionary. (*Depending on the level of your students, a student volunteer can do this or the teacher can.*) Read the definition.
- Come up with a way to remember what the word means by using *Total Physical Response*—have students create an action that symbolizes the word.
- Reread the story, and when you come to a vocabulary word, have the students fill in the meaning in how they choose to remember it.

Create a list of vocabulary words and hang it on the wall to revisit again and again.

## **History**

### **An American Revolutionary Timeline**

Research the following dates to learn their significance in the American Revolution and Alexander Hamilton's life, and then make a timeline of the information gathered.

April 19, 1775

July 2, 1776

December 25, 1776

June 28, 1778

February 1781

October 14, 1781

July 11, 1804

## **Step into History**

Have students work together to create a newscast about one of the following events in the life of Alexander Hamilton to present to their classmates.

- The hurricane of St. Croix and being sent to America
- The Revolutionary War as George Washington's "right-hand man"
- The Battle of Yorktown
- Defending the Constitution
- Position as Secretary of the Treasury
- The duel with Aaron Burr

Students will write a script and take on the roles of anchors and on-site reporters. Students can choose to interview characters and eyewitnesses. Videotape the final newscasts so that students can watch themselves on TV.

## **On the Money**

As the Founding Father who set up America's financial system, Alexander Hamilton appears on the ten-dollar bill. But who is on the rest of our money? And why?

Research one of these other faces on our money:

- George Washington
- Thomas Jefferson
- Abraham Lincoln
- Andrew Jackson
- Ulysses S. Grant
- Benjamin Franklin

Possible sources for information:

- Nonfiction books
- Encyclopedias
- The Internet

Take notes and gather as much information as possible.

- Who was this person?
- The most significant events in their life.
- Legacy (their contributions to America)
- Other fun facts
- When they first appeared on money

Once the information is gathered, work to create either an illustrated poster or a booklet of the findings. Include your opinion as to WHY this face was included on our money.

BONUS: If we were to create new money with a different face of someone contemporary, who has contributed a lot to America, who would you pick and why?

- Design the bill with this new face on it.

### **Hamilton's Legacy**

A eulogy is a speech that is often given at a funeral to highlight the key events of a person's life and their legacy, or what they leave behind.

Write a eulogy for Hamilton.

Then, in groups of 3-4, create a "still or frozen image" of a statue in Hamilton's memory.

Decide as a group where this statue would be erected: his birthplace, where he died in Weehawken, New Jersey, in front of the Treasury Building, his home in Manhattan, or another location.

Share these statues with the rest of the class as eulogies are read.

### **Honoring Eliza Hamilton**

After Alexander Hamilton died, his wife, Eliza (Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton), spent the rest of her life preserving his legacy and contributing to the early history of the United States.

Research and learn about Eliza Hamilton.

Topics to explore:

- Her work with orphans and founding the first private orphanage in New York City
- Her efforts to organize and publish Alexander Hamilton's writings
- Her advocacy and charitable work

Create a poster, mini-book, or digital presentation titled "Eliza's Legacy."

Include:

- A brief summary of who she was
- Three key contributions she made after Hamilton's death
- Illustrations or images
- A reflection: Why is it important to remember her work today?



Extension: If Eliza were alive today, what cause might she care about?

Write a letter from Eliza's point of view to today's children, encouraging them to make a difference in the world.

### **Hamilton: An American Musical**

Look closely at the poster of the Broadway musical *Hamilton: An American Musical*. Why do you think the designers chose to use these colors and images for a musical about the life and legacy of Alexander Hamilton?

Using evidence from *Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory*, redesign the Broadway poster to include specific elements from his life's story.

### **\*\*\*Praise for Behrens' Book\*\*\***

"...I found the highlights of his intellectual prowess to be one of the book's greatest assets. Overall, this is an insightful and visually textured account of Hamilton's journey, perfect for young readers and history enthusiasts alike..." **-5-Star Review from Readers' Favorite**

"...The book succinctly summarizes battles, and young readers will relate to Hamilton's reluctance to sit at a desk rather than fight...The pages are lively, with active depictions of battle. Illustrations are an appealing blend of cartoon simplicity and historical realism. The text features compact sentences, ideal for young readers...young readers with a bent for adventure or history will find the story exciting and Alexander Hamilton's quest for success inspiring..." **-BlueInk Review**

"Kids who normally view history as impersonal and boring will relish the vivid capture of underlying emotions, influences, and passions which fueled America's fight for independence...adults will appreciate the opportunity to engage the young in a story vital to American history...Libraries that choose Alexander Hamilton's Wish for Battlefield Glory...will find the especially vibrant cover art and many psychological and social insights make for an exceptional chronicle..." **-Diane Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Reviews**



**More from C. Behrens:** *Savanna's Treasure* has a free 3-page activity guide!

New picture book coming in 2025: *Home Court, A Basketball's Ditty* + lots of FUN facts!

For more on Chris, visit: <https://cbauthor.com>