

## **Teacher Guide to Worksheet 5-Questions for Character Sidney Marlin, III**

- 1. You are Sidney Marlin, III. As seen from your name, you are a descendant of Sidney Marlin. From your reading, who is Sidney Marlin?**

**He is a Union soldier serving with a Pennsylvania Regiment under the command of General Hunter during the burning of the Virginia Military Institute.**

- 2. What is your primary source?**

**My primary source is a letter Sidney Marlin wrote to his wife in which he describes his favorable impression of Lexington and the splendor of the Institute which he was ordered to burn.**

- 3. To whom is he writing?**

**He is writing to his wife, Mrs. Sallie A. Marlin.**

- 4. When was it written? Where was it written?**

**It was written June 14, 1864, in Lexington, Virginia.**

- 5. Give three details of the military school (Virginia Military Institute).**

**Some possible answers include:**

- It was four stories tall.**
- It had 50 splendid chandeliers.**
- There were six public libraries filled with more than ten thousand volumes of all kinds of books.**
- There was a large statue of Washington in front of the Institute with six fancy brass cannon lit from lighting coming from a gas house.**
- It was well-landscaped with shrubbery and flowers and gravel walks.**
- The Institute stood on about six acres of land.**

- 6. Name what building structures they burned.**

**They burned all of Virginia Military Institute; and three mills, a house and other buildings belonging to Governor Letcher.**

**7. What reason does Marlin give for the burning of Letcher's property?**

**Before Governor Letcher left town, he had issued a proclamation for the townspeople to harass the Union troops. Marlin believes this is why his property was burned.**

**8. Do you think he feels justified in his actions? Explain.**

**Yes, I think he feels justified, but regretful at the same time. He says, "It was a pity to do it but [he] supposes it could not be helped." He feels General Hunter is "a good commander," and therefore seems convinced there is good reason for his command to burn the buildings. Despite following Hunter's orders, Marlin does seem to admire the place and notices its' previous beauty in great detail.**