


3g

# HEROES AND HELPERS



abeka  
**Reading  
Program**



Fight *blazing* wildfires,  
race through *snowy*  
woods, and march into  
a *RAGING* battle in



## To Teachers and Parents

Overflowing with truth and character, *Heroes and Helpers* will inspire students to be heroes every day through the examples of fearless fictional creatures, understated modern laborers, and courageous historical figures. Through one fascinating selection after another, students will learn to identify the *climax*, as well as the difference between the terms *biography* and *autobiography*.

## *Heroes and Helpers*

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## To Teachers and Parents

Story/Character Themes are presented to encourage appreciation for God's design, recognize His plan for creation, and develop desirable character traits. Discuss themes as stories and poems are read orally, encouraging students to emulate good character traits.

### Guide to Story/Character Themes

#### Courage

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- Two Unexpected Heroes 5
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- How Lydia Darragh Served Her Country 32
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- The Knights of the Forest 88

## **Trusting God**

- Gladys Aylward: The Little Woman 72

## **Wisdom**

- What Makes a Hero? 4
- The Tale of Beaver Pond 16

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.”* Jesus humbled Himself; He set aside His power and glory, making Himself seem to be no more important than any other man. But He fed the hungry, healed the sick, forgave sinners, and even washed His disciples’ feet, all because He was God and loved mankind. When we help others, we should serve them with love and humility just as Jesus did.





When we hear the word *hero*, we often think of a knight in shining armor riding off to battle or a strong man in a cape fighting crime in the streets.



Though these heroes that we think of may be incredible and well known, there is much more to being a true hero. The word *hero* means someone who is known for an act of courage or of great character. This is why so often “heroes” and “helpers” are not that different. While the one receives praise and



cheering, the other works silently and often unnoticed. Even still, both can be known for their character, whether it be striking courage and bravery or incredible humility and love.

You can be a helper, just as the Bible has called us to be. You can work hard and help the people around you every day, but be a hero as well. Be humble enough to help someone when no one else will. Be kind enough to serve someone who has not been kind to you. Be brave enough to lend a hand even if others tease you. Be both; because our world needs more helpful heroes like you.







## **Blaze and the Mountain Lion**

C. W. Anderson

Billy was a boy who had a pony named Blaze that he loved very much. His parents had come west and taken a ranch house for the summer and they brought Blaze along, too. Billy and Blaze loved the west and went for long rides everyday.

They loved to explore the wide open country. There was so much to see. They knew the old badger who had his hole nearby and liked to sit in the sun. Sometimes they saw a coyote disappearing like a gray shadow in the brush.

Billy had an old rope that he used as a lasso. Jim, his cowboy friend, had showed him how to throw it. As he rode along, he practiced catching bushes and sage brush. Blaze always stopped when he saw the rope fly through the air, just like a trained cow pony.

One day Billy started off very early for the distant hills. It was his favorite place to explore. He was sure that many animals lived in that wild place.

Soon he saw a large herd of cattle in the distance and a cowboy was with them. Billy knew it was his friend Jim and he waved to him.

Jim was glad to see him. When he told Jim where he was going Jim said, "Look out for that big mountain lion that has been killing our calves."

"Would he attack Blaze and me?" asked Billy frightened.



“No, a mountain lion is afraid of man. He would never attack you, but he’s tough on calves. There is a big bounty on this fellow, but he’s smart. No one ever gets a shot at him and we can’t find where he lives.”

As Billy rode along he thought about the mountain lion. That this fierce creature should kill helpless calves seemed very cruel. He hoped he would see him and perhaps find out where he lived.

As they were climbing the hills Billy pulled Blaze to a halt. There in a place where the earth was soft was a big track. It looked like a dog’s track but it was very much bigger than



even the biggest dog would make. Billy felt a shiver run down his back. The mountain lion had been here!

Now Billy was watching everything very carefully. He noticed that Blaze was snorting and seemed very nervous. Then Billy saw part of the skeleton of a calf behind a bush. Now he knew they were near where the mountain lion lived!

Then Billy saw him! He was crouched as if ready to spring. Billy had never realized how big and fierce a mountain lion could be. If he had not remembered that Jim said they were afraid of people, Billy would have been very frightened.



Just then the animal caught sight of them. With a few big bounds he disappeared into a large dark hole.

“That’s his cave,” cried Billy. “Wait till I tell Jim!”

When they reached the very top of the ridge and looked down, Billy saw why the mountain lion was there. A little calf was standing on a narrow ledge below. He had slipped over the edge trying to get away from the mountain lion. The rock was so steep he could not get back up. Far below were sharp rocks.

Billy uncoiled the old rope he used as a lasso, then lay down on the ledge and waited. The little calf was calling for its mother and was moving around very frightened.

Just then the little calf reared up. Billy threw his lasso and the loop went around the little calf’s body. Billy quickly pulled it snug. Now he felt he could save the helpless calf. He had a plan.

