

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

Viewing Guide for:  
***Glory* (1989)**



**Introduction:** *Glory* is a dramatization of historical events during the American Civil War. Specifically, the film focuses on the experiences of officers and soldiers of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts was one of the first official African-American Army units during the Civil War. The film emphasizes the struggles the unit goes through to gain dignity and respect.

**Characters:** (See next page for thumbnail headshots)

- Colonel Robert Gould Shaw (Matthew Broderick)—Commanding officer of the 54<sup>th</sup>. His letters are primary source material for the film
- Major Cabot Forbes (Cary Elwes)—officer of the 54<sup>th</sup>, long-time friend of Shaw
- Sargeant Major John Rawlins (Morgan Freeman)—soldier of the 54<sup>th</sup>, escaped slave, father-figure to the men of the 54<sup>th</sup>
- Private Silas Trip (Denzel Washington)—soldier of the 54<sup>th</sup>, a deeply angry escaped slave
- Private Thomas Searles (Andre Braugher)—soldier of the 54<sup>th</sup>, a free black man

**How this Connects to What We've Already Learned:**

- Cause of the War: Pro-slavery southern states tried to secede (break away) when the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Presidency came under the control of anti-slavery people.
- Emancipation & African-American Soldiers:
  - Lincoln's reluctance at the beginning of the war to free slaves & allow African-Americans into the military
  - Lincoln's change of mind later in the war, freeing slaves in the south & allowing African-Americans in the military
  - Frederick Douglass' efforts to influence Lincoln and later work recruiting African-Americans into the military

**Why We're Watching It:** We're watching *Glory* to see specific examples of obstacles Americans (white & black) faced in making progress towards racial equality and how Americans committed to racial equality (black & white) dealt with those obstacles. In doing so, we will also be practicing the skills of selecting good evidence and interpreting evidence with insightful commentary.

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## Major Characters:



**Colonel Shaw**



**Major Forbes**



**Sergeant Rawlins**



**Private Trip**



**Private Thomas  
Searles**