



Reading Comprehension Assignment: A Soldier's Family (Grades 5-8)

Lydia Spencer Lane briefly lived at Fort Stanton in 1858 alongside her husband, William Bartlett Lane, who was an officer in the U.S. Army. Mrs. Lane later wrote a book memorializing her experiences. Below is an excerpt from her book. Read the passage and then answer the questions below.

It was with grateful hearts we reached the cosy quarters at Fort Stanton at last, and were soon entirely at home at my sister's house, where we remained until the husbands returned from the Navajo war, when we occupied our own quarters.

Fort Stanton was a beautiful post, with the best quarters in the army at the time, but it was like being buried alive to stay there. Nothing ever passed that way, and it was seldom a stranger came among us. There was but one mail a month, and on the day it was expected we dropped all work and fixed our eyes on a certain hill, round which the man with the mail, carried on a mule, was bound to appear, after a while, if the Indians had not caught him. Whoever first spied him spread the news that the mail was coming. Then all was excitement and papers in his hands. Although the papers were old, we enjoyed their contents as much as we do our "daily" of to-day.

Comprehension Analysis

1. After reading this passage, think about Lydia Spencer Lane's experience at Ft. Stanton and combine those thoughts with the information you learned from Ranger John Schultz's video presentation. With the information you gathered from both sources write a three-paragraph report that compares and contrasts the daily life of a Ft. Stanton soldier and that of a civilian living at the post.

Once the assignment is complete, upload your article in the comments section of the Facebook lesson video.
Happy writing!

