

## Red Badge of Courage: Historical Context

**Directions:** Watch the following video clips and answer the questions.

Even though Stephen Crane's novel seems to be a portrayal of the Civil War experience in general, he did use some specifics of the Battle of Chancellorsville as the foundation for his story. Two video clips in the unitedstreaming™ library deal specifically with this battle—[“The Battle of Chancellorsville”](#) from *The Red Badge of Courage* video and [“Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia \(May 1-4, 1863\)”](#) from a video titled *American Civil War: The War Years*.

You may also want to explore the information from the following websites to get you started on your research:

[Civil War: Battle of Chancelorsville](#)  
[History: Battle of Chancelorsville](#)  
[Britannica: Battle of Chancelorsville](#)

After you watch these two clips and examine information from other resources, discuss the factual details from this 1863 battle that Crane has included in his novel. What factual details from the battle differ from the narrative in the novel? Why do you think Crane used this particular battle as the setting for his story?