

English

Historical Context: “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”

A. Understanding the social and political climate during the U.S. Civil War is crucial to understanding Ambrose Bierce’s short story, “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge.” Read the article linked below, and answer the following questions with at least 3 sentences for each response.

<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/faq/>

1. According to this article, what were the causes of the U.S. Civil War? Were there any causes mentioned with which you were unfamiliar?
2. What was responsible for two thirds of the deaths in the Civil War? Describe the medical technology available at that time.
3. Describe African-American involvement in the Civil War on both sides.
4. Considering Ambrose Bierce, the author of “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” fought in the Union Army (the North) during the Civil War, how do you think he felt about Southern plantation owners like his character, Peyton Farquhar? What influence do you think Bierce’s experience in the war had on him writing this story?