

***James and the Marquis... The Unlikely Friendship of Two Lafayettes* Book Focus**

Text type: historical narrative / biography / informational historical text

Major themes: friendship, freedom, courage, justice, invisibility, perseverance,
Revolutionary War history

Strong myView Connections

This book fits especially well with myView topics such as:

- **People who make a difference**
- **Historical heroes**
- **Unsung heroes**
- **Biography and autobiography**
- **Friendship**
- **Justice and fairness**
- **Courage and perseverance**
- **How history is remembered**
- **Freedom and civic ideals**

Grade-Band Overview

Grade	Best Focus
K–1	Read-aloud, friendship, fairness, heroes
2–3	Sequence, character traits, main idea, cause/effect
4–5	Historical significance, evidence, comparison, writing
6	Theme, perspective, argument, research, analysis

Kindergarten

Teacher read-aloud with discussion of heroes, friendship, and fairness.

Area	Alignment
myView Connection	Community helpers, heroes, fairness, friendship, helping others
Indiana Reading Literature	Ask and answer questions about key details; identify characters, setting, and major events; retell familiar stories
Indiana Reading Informational Text	Identify the main topic and key details with support
Writing	Draw, dictate, or write about a topic; share an opinion with support
Speaking & Listening	Participate in collaborative conversations; describe people and events
Social Studies	Community, past and present, basic ideas about heroes and historical figures

Student Tasks

- Name the two Lafayettes.
- Tell one way James was brave.
- Draw James and Lafayette working together.
- Explain why friendship matters.

Grade 1

Read-aloud or shared reading focused on character, kindness, and historical people.

Area	Alignment
myView Connection	Heroes, friendship, making a difference, historical people
Indiana Reading Literature	Retell stories; identify central message or lesson; describe characters and events
Indiana Reading Informational Text	Identify main topic and key details; ask and answer questions
Writing	Write opinion pieces and informative texts with facts
Speaking & Listening	Ask questions and share ideas in discussion
Social Studies	People from the past; how people help others; fairness and leadership

Student Tasks

- Retell James’s story in order.
- Describe how Lafayette showed respect.
- Write one sentence: “James was brave because...”
- Discuss whether James was treated fairly.

Grade 2

Guided reading with emphasis on sequence, character response, and nonfiction details.

Area	Alignment
myView Connection	Historical figures, courage, friendship, perseverance
Indiana Reading Literature	Recount stories; determine central message; describe how characters respond to major events
Indiana Reading Informational Text	Identify the main idea and key details; use text features like timelines
Writing	Write informative paragraphs and opinion pieces with reasons
Speaking & Listening	Recount and explain key ideas from a text
Social Studies	Historical events, rights and freedoms, people in history

Student Tasks

- Sequence major events in James's life.
- Use the timeline to find important dates.
- Explain how James helped the American cause.
- Write about why James wanted freedom.

Grade 3

Strong fit for historical fiction/nonfiction study, cause/effect, and character traits.

Area	Alignment
myView Connection	People who changed history, courage, justice, biographies
Indiana Reading Literature	Ask and answer questions using text evidence; determine central message or theme; describe characters and their actions
Indiana Reading Informational Text	Determine main idea and key details; explain relationships among events using sequence and cause/effect
Writing	Write informative and opinion pieces using facts and reasons
Speaking & Listening	Participate in discussions and present information clearly
Social Studies	Revolutionary War, historical figures, citizenship, freedom

Student Tasks

- Describe James using text evidence.
- Explain how James's spying affected the war.
- Compare James and Lafayette.
- Write a paragraph about why James's work mattered.

Grade 4

Very strong fit for historical analysis, point of view, and text structure.

Area	Alignment
myView Connection	Historical biographies, justice, leadership, collaboration, courage
Indiana Reading Literature	Refer to details when explaining text; determine theme; summarize; describe characters and events in depth
Indiana Reading Informational Text	Explain main ideas and supporting details; interpret timelines and historical text features
Writing	Informative/explanatory writing with facts and details; opinion writing supported by reasons
Speaking & Listening	Engage in discussions and present evidence-based responses
Social Studies	Revolutionary War, rights and freedoms, historical significance, civic action

Student Tasks

- Explain why the friendship between James and Lafayette was unusual.
- Use the timeline to identify turning points.
- Summarize the story and the historical facts.
- Discuss how being enslaved shaped James's life.

Grade 5

Excellent for paired-text study, historical significance, and research writing.

Area	Alignment
myView Connection	Historical heroes, injustice, resistance, freedom, biographies
Indiana Reading Literature	Quote accurately; determine theme; compare characters, settings, or events
Indiana Reading Informational Text	Quote accurately; determine main ideas; analyze relationships among events, ideas, and people
Writing	Research projects; informative writing; opinion/argument writing supported by evidence
Speaking & Listening	Summarize information and present findings clearly
Social Studies	Revolutionary War, slavery, government, citizenship, historical interpretation

Student Tasks

- Compare James's and Lafayette's life experiences.
- Explain how James contributed to the American victory.
- Write a research paragraph about James Lafayette.
- Use the timeline to support an argument about why James should be remembered.

Strongest upper-elementary/middle-grade fit for analysis, theme, evidence, and historical perspective.

Area	Alignment
myView Connection	Biographies, justice, identity, historical perspective, resilience, civic ideals
Indiana Reading Literature	Cite textual evidence; analyze theme and how it is developed; analyze plot and character change
Indiana Reading Informational Text	Cite evidence; determine central ideas; analyze how events and ideas are developed in a text
Writing	Argumentative, informative, and research writing using evidence and transitions
Speaking & Listening	Collaborative discussion, interpretation, and evidence-based presentation
Social Studies	Revolutionary War, slavery, citizenship, civic ideals, historical memory

Student Tasks

- Analyze how the book presents freedom and invisibility.
- Explain how James's intelligence and trust made his spying effective.
- Write a short literary analysis of the friendship between James and Lafayette.
- Compare the text's portrayal of history with a timeline or article.

Strong Indiana Standards Connections

Reading Literature

- Character traits
- Theme
- Plot and sequence
- Text evidence
- Historical perspective

Reading Informational Text

- Main idea and details
- Timelines
- Historical context
- Compare and contrast
- Evidence from nonfiction

Writing

- Opinion writing
- Informative writing
- Research projects
- Literary analysis

Speaking and Listening

- Collaborative discussion
- Oral retell
- Presentation of evidence
- Questioning and response

Social Studies

- Revolutionary War
- Slavery and freedom
- Citizenship
- Historical figures
- Civic responsibility

Best Essential Questions by Grade

- **K:** How do people help each other?
- **1:** What makes someone a hero?
- **2:** How do people show bravery?
- **3:** How can one person change history?
- **4:** Why is friendship important in history?
- **5:** How do people work for freedom and justice?
- **6:** How do historical texts help us understand fairness, courage, and identity?

Suggested Final Product by Grade

Grade	Product
K	Drawing and oral explanation
1	Sentence strip about James or Lafayette
2	Sequence chart or timeline
3	Character trait chart with evidence
4	Summary paragraph
5	Short research report
6	Literary analysis or argumentative response

Below is a **clean, printable grade-by-grade alignment chart** for *James and the Marquis: The Unlikely Friendship of Two Lafayettes* aligned to **Savvas myView Literacy** skill areas and **Indiana Academic Standards**.

Note: Indiana Academic Standards are periodically updated and may vary slightly by district pacing guide or adoption year. This chart uses standard skill language rather than specific code numbers so it can be adapted easily.

Grade	myView Curriculum Connection	Indiana ELA Standards Alignment	Indiana Social Studies Connection	Student Task / Assessment Idea
Kindergarten	Community, friendship, fairness, helping others, historical heroes	Reading: With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details; identify characters, setting, and major events. Informational Text: Identify the main topic and key details with support. Writing: Use drawing, dictating, or writing to share information or an opinion. Speaking & Listening: Participate in conversations and describe people or events.	Community helpers; past and present; understanding that people from long ago made important contributions.	Draw James and Lafayette. Orally explain one way James was brave or one way Lafayette helped James.

G r a d e 1	Heroes, friendship, fairness, making a difference, important people from history	Reading: Retell stories; identify characters, setting, and major events; identify the central message or lesson. Informational Text: Identify main topic and key details. Writing: Write an opinion or informative sentence/piece with a topic and reason. Speaking & Listening: Ask and answer questions during discussion.	Historical figures; fairness; leadership; people who helped shape communities and the nation.	Write: “James was brave because _____.” Discuss how Lafayette showed respect to James.
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G r a d e 2	Courage, friendship, perseverance, historical figures, rights and freedom	Reading: Recount stories; determine central message; describe how characters respond to major events and challenges. Informational Text: Identify main idea and key details; use text features such as timelines. Writing: Write informative paragraphs with facts and a closing statement. Speaking & Listening: Recount key ideas from a text or discussion.	Historical events; individual rights; people who contributed to American history; basic understanding of the Revolutionary War.	Create a simple timeline of James's life. Explain how James helped the American army.
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G r a d e 3	People who changed history, courage, justice, biography, problem solving	Reading: Ask and answer questions using evidence from the text; determine central message or theme; describe characters and how their actions affect events. Informational Text: Determine main idea and supporting details; explain cause-and-effect relationships among historical events. Writing: Write informative or opinion pieces with facts, reasons, and details. Speaking & Listening: Participate in collaborative discussions and present information clearly.	Revolutionary War; citizenship; freedom; historical figures; how individuals contribute to important events.	Complete a character trait chart for James using text evidence. Write a paragraph explaining why James's role as a spy mattered.
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G r a d e 4	Historical biography, justice, leadership, collaboration, courage, point of view	Reading: Refer to details and examples when explaining a text; summarize; determine theme; describe characters and events in depth. Informational Text: Determine main idea and supporting details; explain events and ideas in a historical text; interpret timelines. Writing: Write informative/explanatory pieces with facts, details, and examples; write opinion pieces supported by reasons. Speaking & Listening: Engage in discussions and support ideas with evidence.	Revolutionary War; slavery and freedom; historical significance; civic ideals; how people's actions influence history.	Explain why the friendship between James Lafayette and the Marquis de Lafayette was unusual and important. Use evidence from the text.
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G r a d e 5	Historical heroes, injustice, resistance, freedom, biography, comparing perspectives	Reading: Quote accurately from a text; determine theme; compare and contrast characters, events, or ideas. Informational Text: Quote accurately; determine main ideas; explain relationships among people, events, and ideas in historical texts. Writing: Conduct short research; write informative or opinion/argument pieces using evidence. Speaking & Listening: Summarize information and present findings in an organized way.	American Revolution; slavery during the Revolutionary era; government and freedom; citizenship; historical interpretation.	Research James Lafayette and write a short report explaining why he should be remembered as a Revolutionary War hero.
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G r a d e 6	Justice, identity, resilience, historical perspective, civic ideals, biography and informational text analysis	Reading: Cite textual evidence; analyze theme and how it develops; analyze how characters respond to conflict or change. Informational Text: Cite evidence; determine central idea; analyze how individuals, events, and ideas are introduced and developed. Writing: Write arguments and informative texts with clear organization, relevant evidence, transitions, and conclusions. Speaking & Listening: Participate in evidence-based discussions and present claims clearly.	Revolutionary War; slavery; citizenship; democracy; civic ideals; historical memory; how societies honor overlooked contributors.	Write a literary or historical analysis explaining how the book develops the ideas of freedom, invisibility, courage, and recognition.
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Condensed Grade-Band Alignment

Grade Band	Best Instructional Use	Key myView Skills	Indiana Standards Focus
K–1	Teacher read-aloud	Characters, setting, retelling, kindness, fairness	Asking/answering questions, identifying key details, oral discussion
2–3	Shared reading or guided reading	Sequence, character response, main idea, cause/effect	Recounting events, describing character actions, identifying main idea and details
4–5	Close reading and paired text study	Theme, summary, text evidence, historical context	Citing evidence, explaining historical events, informative and opinion writing
6	Literary and historical analysis	Theme development, perspective, symbolism, argument	Textual evidence, central idea, argument writing, research, discussion

myView-Style Essential Questions

Grade	Essential Question
K	How do people help each other?
1	What makes someone a hero?
2	How do people show bravery?
3	How can one person change history?
4	Why are friendship and trust important in history?
5	How do people work for freedom and justice?
6	How do historical texts help us understand courage, identity, and recognition?

Key Themes and Standards-Based Teaching Points

Theme	Teaching Connection
Freedom	Students examine the contradiction between the American fight for liberty and the continued enslavement of people like James.
Courage	James risks his life as a spy and double agent.
Friendship	Lafayette sees James as intelligent, trustworthy, and worthy of respect.
Invisibility and Recognition	The text shows how James was overlooked by society but played a critical role in history.
Historical Memory	Students consider why some heroes are celebrated while others are forgotten or recognized much later.
Justice	James helps win freedom for a nation before gaining his own freedom.

Suggested Final Products by Grade

Grade	Final Product
K	Drawing of James and Lafayette with oral explanation
1	Sentence and picture: "James was brave because..."
2	Timeline of James's life
3	Character trait chart with text evidence
4	Paragraph explaining the importance of James and Lafayette's friendship
5	Short research report on James Lafayette's contribution to the Revolutionary War
6	Evidence-based analysis or argument about why James Lafayette deserves greater historical recognition