



Educational
Guide
Y1 - Y6

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THE MOVIE



SGT. STUBBY: AN UNLIKELY HERO is a computer-animated feature film based on the true story of the bond between a stray dog and a Soldier, set against the backdrop of America's entry into World War I.

With The War to End All Wars looming, a young Army "doughboy" Robert Conroy (Logan Lerman, "Percy Jackson & the Olympians") has his life forever changed when a little dog with a stubby tail wanders into training camp.

Conroy gives his new friend a name, a family, and a chance to embark on the adventure that would define a century.

Narrated by Robert's sister, Margaret (Academy Award® nominee Helena Bonham Carter, "Harry Potter" series), Stubby and his new best friend quickly find themselves in the trenches of France and on the path to history.

French poilu soldier Gaston Baptiste (Academy Award® nominee Gérard Depardieu, "Life of Pi") befriends the duo and accompanies them along their epic journey through harsh conditions and incredible acts of courage.

Sgt. Stubby's actions show the world the true meaning of dedication, loyalty, and how true heroes can come from the unlikeliest of places!



THE HISTORY



As documented in the history books but largely untold today, Stubby was no ordinary stray: he was a tenacious canine, a courageous scout, and a fiercely loyal friend. For his valorous actions, Stubby is recognised as the first dog ever promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the U.S. Army and the most decorated canine in American history.

Before he was a hero, he was homeless: unwanted, unwashed, unloved, scrounging for scraps on the streets of New Haven, Connecticut, USA. His fortunes changed when he ran into a young Soldier training on the grounds of Yale University – Private First Class Robert Conroy of the 26th “Yankee” Division – who adopted the little mutt and named him Stubby for his short stature and tail. When the division shipped off to France, Conroy smuggled him aboard the ship. When they were discovered, the scrappy little stray demonstrated his military training by saluting the commanding officer.

Stubby became the official mascot of the Yankee Division and was given special orders to accompany them into the front lines. Stubby saw action in 17 different battles and was eventually promoted to the rank of Sergeant after catching a German spy. After the war, he continued touring around America visiting his fellow veterans in hospitals, leading victory parades, meeting three sitting U.S. presidents, appearing on vaudeville, and serving as the mascot for Georgetown University where he’s credited with inventing the halftime show.

Stubby died at home in 1926 and his remains were donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., USA, where he can be visited today at the National Museum of American History’s “Price of Freedom” exhibit.



“The noise and strain that shattered the nerves of many of his comrades did not impair Stubby’s spirits. Not because he was unconscious of danger. His angry howl while a battle raged and his mad canter from one part of the lines to another indicated realization. But he seemed to know that the greatest service he could render was comfort and cheerfulness.”
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sgt. Stubby: An Unlikely Hero lends itself to myriad curriculum connections. Outlined below are some ways that you can explore the themes and history of Sergeant Stubby in your school while meeting the requirements within the Primary National Curriculum. National Curriculum objectives are listed with each Key Stage and can be adapted to suit your class and children. You may wish to use the activity pack alongside these activities to create a display linked to the film. Activities may need adapting depending on your cohort of children.

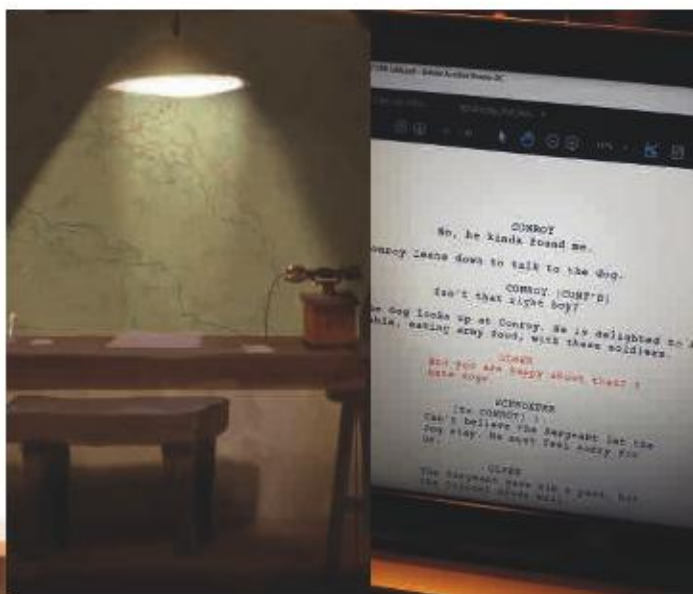
Reading Comprehension Activities



KS1	Lower KS2 – Y3/4	Upper KS2 – Y5/6
<p>In small groups, ask the children to retell the story of Sgt. Stubby orally. Explain the children will be putting in order simple picture cards of the main events. Ask the children to discuss the main theme of the film.</p> <p>Using a Venn diagram, compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of Conroy and Stubby throughout the film.</p>	<p>Ask the children to use a story mountain writing frame. Ensure the children include a description of the beginning, middle and end of the film and there are character and setting descriptions.</p> <p>Role on the Wall – Ask the children to draw an outline of Conroy or Stubby. Around the outside of the outline describe their appearance whilst inside the outline describe how they are feeling, their personality and behaviours.</p>	<p>Explain to the children they will be writing a summary of the main parts of the film i.e. When Stubby joined the Doughboys and met Conroy or Stubby stowing away on the ship to Europe.</p> <p>Role on the Wall – Using an outline of both Conroy and Stubby, children describe the characters feelings and personalities inside the outline whilst writing their appearance outside the outline. Once completed, the children then write what is similar and different to Stubby and Conroy.</p>
<p>Y1 – (reading) - participate in discussion about what is read to them, taking turns and listening to what others say. Explain clearly their understanding of what is read to them.</p> <p>Y2 – (reading) Explain and discuss their understanding of books, poems and other material, both those that they listen to and those that they read for themselves.</p>	<p>Y3/4 (Reading) - draw inferences such as inferring characters feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence.</p> <p>Identifying main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarising these.</p> <p>Participate in discussion, taking turns and listening to what others say.</p>	<p>Y5/6 (Reading) - draw inferences such as inferring characters feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence.</p> <p>Summarising the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph, identifying key details that support the main ideas.</p> <p>Participate in discussions about books that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, building on their own and others' ideas and challenging views courteously.</p>



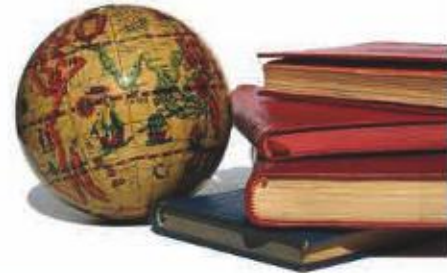
Writing Activities



KS1	Lower KS2	UKS2
<p>Lists and Labels: Using an image of Sgt. Stubby, look carefully at him and his uniform. Explain the children will be listing the features of Stubby and adding labels. Discuss his special coat made by the women of Chateau- Thierry. Why did they make this special coat for him? How could this be written as a label?</p> <p>Recount text: Using the fun facts from the educational pack, and from watching the film, ask the children to write a recount of how Stubby first met Private First Class Robert Conroy at Yale University. This could include their initial reactions to each other, how they became friends and Stubby's adventures on the training camp.</p>	<p>Persuasive writing: Introduce the scenario that the children will be working with the film company to persuade people to watch Sgt.Stubby: An Unlikely Hero at the cinemas. Explain they can choose their format e.g. a film poster, newspaper review, letter or email to friends.</p> <p>Letter writing: Throughout the film, Robert Conroy's sister, Margaret, is an important character. She share Robert's experiences with the viewers. Write a letter, from either sibling, to the other. Discuss with the children how they may be feeling during the war, how Sgt Stubby is, when they think the war maybe over and what it is like fighting alongside the ally troops?</p>	<p>Newspaper Reports: Ask the children to imagine they are a reporter for The New York Times (share a copy if possible) and WWI is over. The public want to know more about a brave dog and his soldier and you have been given the task to write about them. The writing should include an eye catching headline, quotes, description and a photo.</p> <p>Biography: Have students explain the biography of Sergeant Stubby by writing a simple picture book for younger students. The book should include illustrations, dates, written in the past tense and 3rd person and in the closing paragraph how Sgt. Stubby is remembered today. Information from the education pack will support the children's research, plus the links below.</p>
<p>Y1 (writing) Write sentences by saying out loud what they are going to write about. Re-read what they have written to check it makes sense. Discuss what they have written with the teacher or other pupils.</p> <p>Y2 (writing) Develop positive attitudes towards and stamina for writing by writing about real events.</p>	<p>Y3/4 (writing) Pupils should be taught to: plan their writing by discussing and recording ideas Draft and write non-narrative material using simple organizational devices. Organise paragraphs around a theme. Read aloud their own writing, to a group or whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so the meaning is clear.</p>	<p>Y5/6 (writing) Pupils should be taught to: plan their writing by identifying the audience and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form. Noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary Draft and write by using a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs</p>

Curriculum Links and Activities

Activities may need to be adapted depending on the cohort of children.



KS1	KS2
<p>Geography – Stubby was an American war hero. He travelled from the USA to Europe in 1918, exactly 100 years ago. This was a long journey for everyone, especially a dog. Use a world map to identify where the USA and France is. Look at which oceans and seas he crossed and in which direction he travelled using a compass.</p> <p>History – Read the poem ‘In Flanders Field’ by Major John McCrae. Discuss the meaning of the poem. Explain that Stubby was not near Flanders but this poem is a way of remembering the soldiers from WWI. Discuss why it is important to remember? Why do people remember Stubby today?</p> <p>Design and Technology – Sgt. Stubby wore a coat given to him by the women of Chateau-Thierry for saving their lives. On it, all Stubby’s medals hung. This can be seen today at the National Museum of American History, in Washington, D.C, USA. Looking carefully at the medals, children can design, make and evaluate their own medals. Medals can be drawn, painted, made with clay or textiles.</p> <p>PSHE – Sgt. Stubby, and soldiers are often described as heroes. What does this mean to you? What characteristics does a hero have? Draw and label a picture of Stubby and Conroy showing these characteristics e.g. respect for others, courage, perseverance, commitment, patriotism, teamwork, and loyalty.</p>	<p>History – Create a timeline about WWI. Trace the historical events of the film onto the timeline and discuss how one event led to the next. This year, 2018, is 100 years since the end of WWI. Armistice Day, November 11th, is an important day to remember those who died in the war. Why is it important to remember? How can we remember? Discuss why poppies are seen at the time of Remembrance. Compare life shown in the film with life today. What is similar and different in terms of food, clothing, homes, transportation, communication, recreation and freedoms?</p> <p>Geography – Many countries were in conflict during the war. America joined the war to support the Allies, and Sgt. Stubby was posted to France. Using a world map, and one of Europe, where did Stubby travel too? How far was he from his home? How many miles did he travel in total?</p> <p>Art – An artist study of the war artist Paul Nash. The children’s art work can be completed using a wide range of medium. These landscapes can be used as the background to create a short animation in the style of Sgt. Stubby: An Unlikely Hero. Animation using e.g. iMovie.</p> <p>Computing – Using a computer program e.g. Scratch, children create their own animation about a part of Sgt. Stubby’s life. Using their literacy learning, create a filmed news report to share with the school.</p> <p>Design and Technology – Rationing was introduced in the UK in January 1918 as people were panicking about food running out. Share with the children the amount of food that a family of four were allowed. Children to create a menu for a week to feed a family of four. What do the children think Stubby ate whilst on the front line?</p> <p>PSHE – Describe how Sgt. Stubby and Conroy display positive character traits, such as dependability, trustworthiness, honor, cooperation, courage, leadership, patriotism, perseverance, and loyalty.</p>

Teacher Resources

- natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/first-world-war/ Informational article about WWI written for kids
- slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/history/2014/05/dogs_of_war_sergeant_stubby_the_u_s_army_s_original_and_still_most_highly.html Background information about Sgt. Stubby and Conroy for teachers and older students
- tate.org.uk/art/artists/paul-nash-1690 Information about the war artist Paul Nash
- bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/horrible-histories Collection of short films from CBBC Horrible Histories series, Frightful First World War.
- <http://cookit.e2bn.org/historycookbook/index-22-edwardians-and-ww1.html> Historical food website to support children in creating a weekly menu.



Stubby was a real dog whose special coat and medals are preserved by the Smithsonian Institution and are currently on display at the National Museum of American History, Washington D.C.



Stubby managed to get all the way to France with the doughboys of the 102nd Infantry Regiment and served right alongside them, spending over 200 days on the front lines!



Stubby wasn't just a pet; he was a division mascot who became a guard dog and expert rat chaser.

Stubby was able to smell gas before his human counterparts and would raise the alarm for imminent attacks.



Stubby would run on to the battlefield to find wounded soldiers and bark to alert the medics of their whereabouts.

When an enemy soldier snuck in to the allied trenches, Stubby confronted him and bit him on the behind!



Stubby fought in 17 battles and won many medals. He had a special coat made to pin all his awards, a gift from the women of the Chateau-Thierry for helping to save their town.



After the war, Stubby and Robert Conroy toured the country to raise funds and awareness for their fellow veterans.

Stubby truly was man's best friend!



Test your knowledge on our trivia quiz. Some questions may need a little research!

- ★ 1. American foot Soldiers were known as 'Doughboys'. Was this because.....
 - a) They were all bakers before they became Soldiers.
 - b) The brass buttons on their uniforms looked like flour dumplings.
 - c) All they had to eat in the trenches was fresh bread.

- ★ 2. Conroy named his best friend 'Stubby' because....
 - a) He had a short stumpy tail.
 - b) His legs weren't very long.
 - c) He was always in the way and Conroy kept stubbing his toe on him.

- ★ 3. Pigeons played an important part in the war by....
 - a) Making a tasty meal when food was short.
 - b) Warning of attacks by flying away.
 - c) Providing pigeon post by carrying and delivering important messages.

- ★ 4. The youngest Soldier to serve in WW1 was how old....
 - a) 16 b) 14 c) 13

- ★ 5. The oldest Soldier to serve in WW1 was how old....
 - a) 76 b) 78 c) 80

Answers on page 16.

MAZE



They say an army marches on its stomach, help guide Stubby through the maze to find his awaiting meal!



DID YOU KNOW: Soldiers in the WW1 trenches lucky enough to have a small stove - or even candles - would boil up any food including stale biscuits or add these to the canned food provided. Mmmmmm, sounds delicious!

WORDSEARCH



Can you find all the words hidden in the grid below?



STUBBY
HERO
DOG
MEDAL
SOLDIER

TRENCH
BATTLE
CONROY
FRANCE
AMERICA

Answers on page 16.

ORIGAMI STUBBY



Print the template on the following page, and use the instructions provided to fold and create your very own barking Stubby. Impress your friends with the hidden facts!





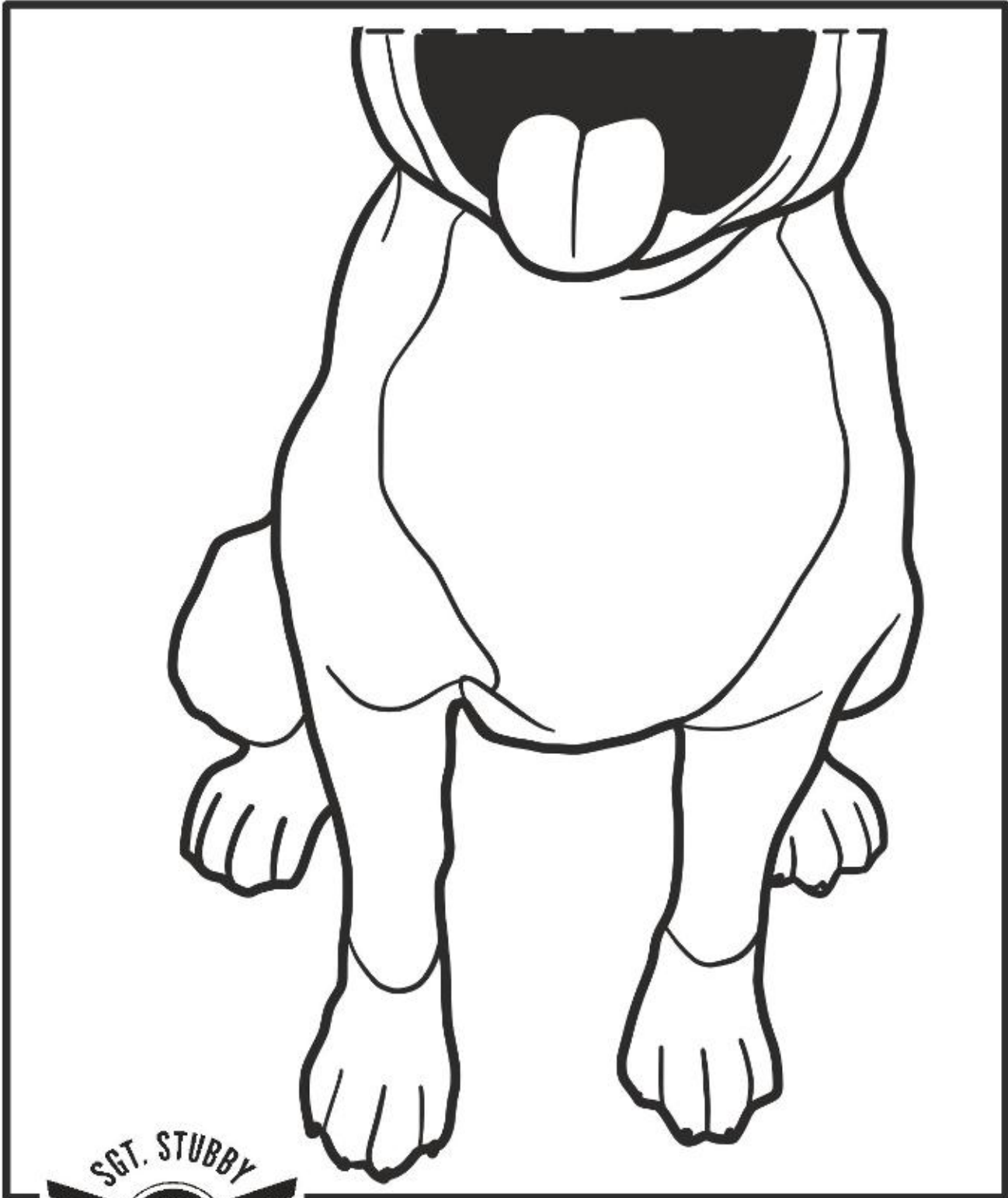
PAPER BAG STUBBY PUPPET

Colour Stubby's face and body, then cut out and paste to the bag as shown.



#stubbymovie

PAPER BAG PUPPET



#stubbymovie

STUBBY MASK



STUBBY MASK



YOU WILL NEED:

- Paper (Cardstock works best!)
- A Printer
- Scissors
- Scotch Tape
- Pipe Cleaners or String

Instructions:

1. Print out the Stubby Mask template.
2. Cut out Stubby's face and ears. Make sure you cut all the way up the black outline around Stubby's muzzle!
3. Bend in a straight line over Stubby's nose, then fold each tab over and tape.
4. Fold the tops of stubby's ears twice, then fold over the tab and tape. Bend the bottom flap up and tape to the top of Stubby's head.
5. Poke the pipe cleaners through the sides or use a hole punch, and twist to fasten. You can also use string for this.
6. Take a photo in your Stubby mask!



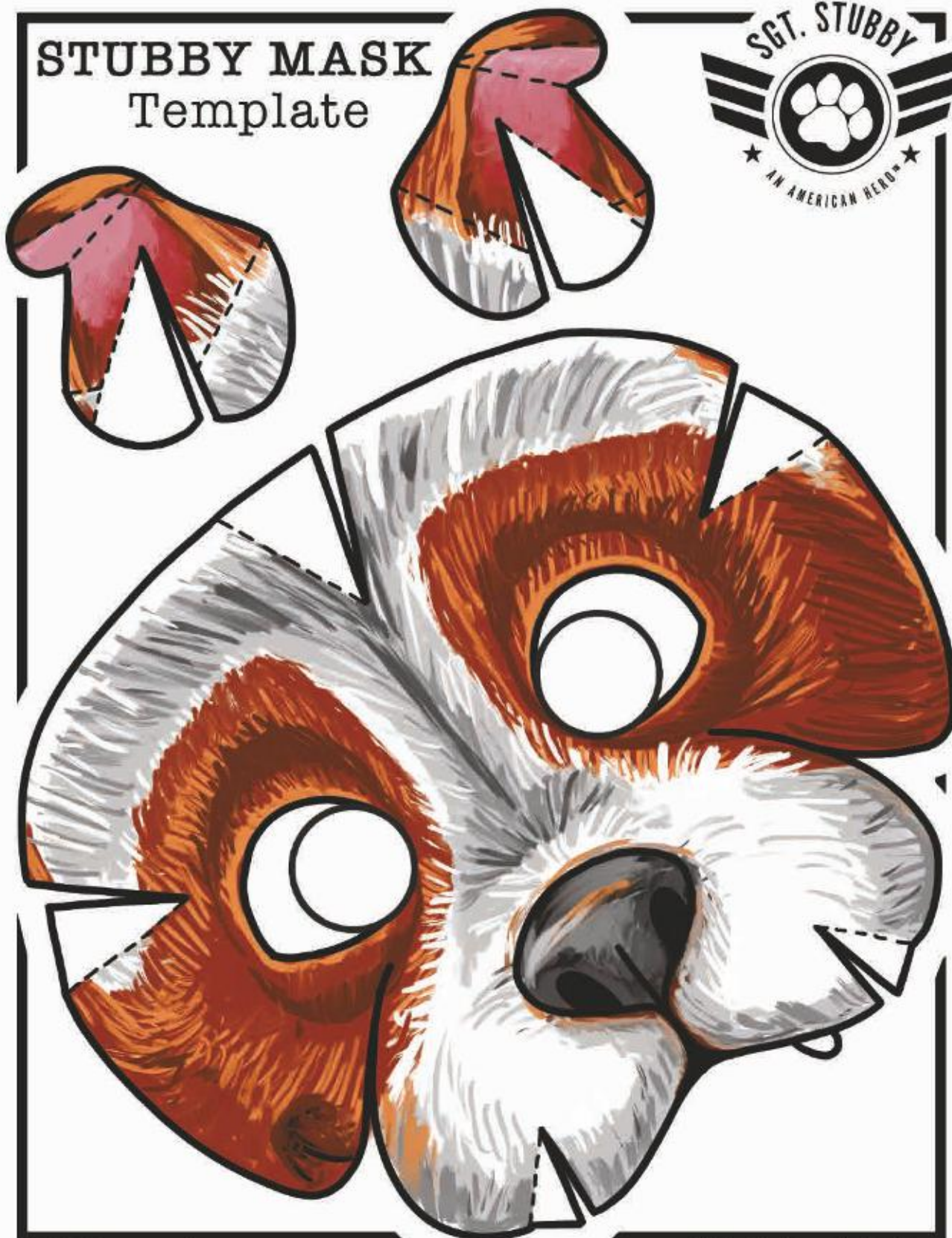
#stubbymovie

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STUBBY MASK



STUBBY MASK Template



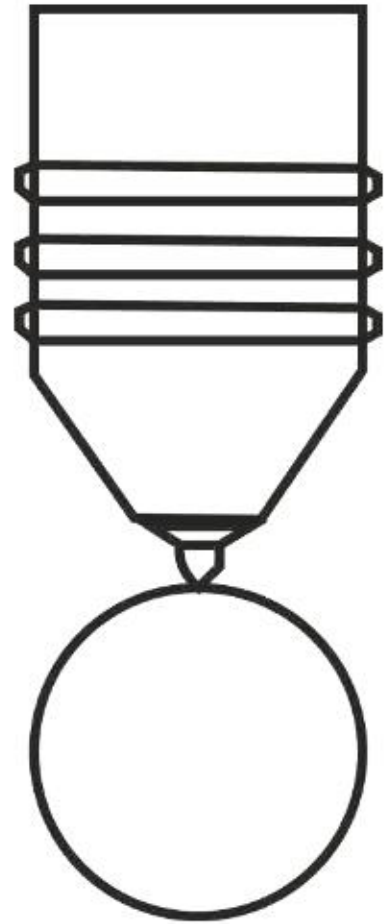
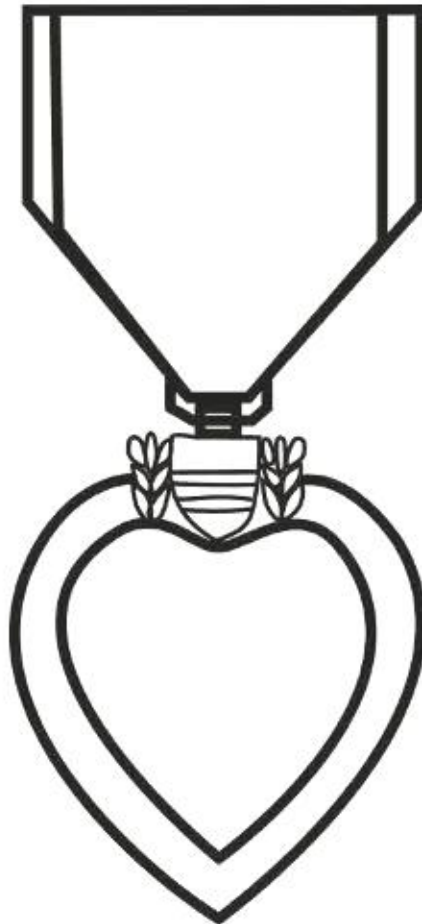
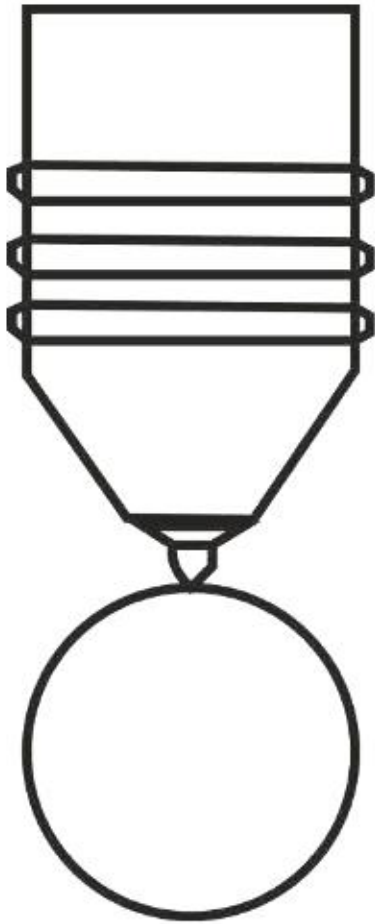
#stubbymovie

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DESIGN YOUR OWN MEDALS



Think of someone you know who has done something heroic, or who you believe to be a hero, and make them a medal of your own design.



HOW TO MAKE A PURPLE HEART MEDAL



CUT THE SHAPES BELOW OUT OF COLOURED FELT OR PAPER AND STICK TOGETHER. ADD DETAIL WITH A PEN!



GOLD



WHITE



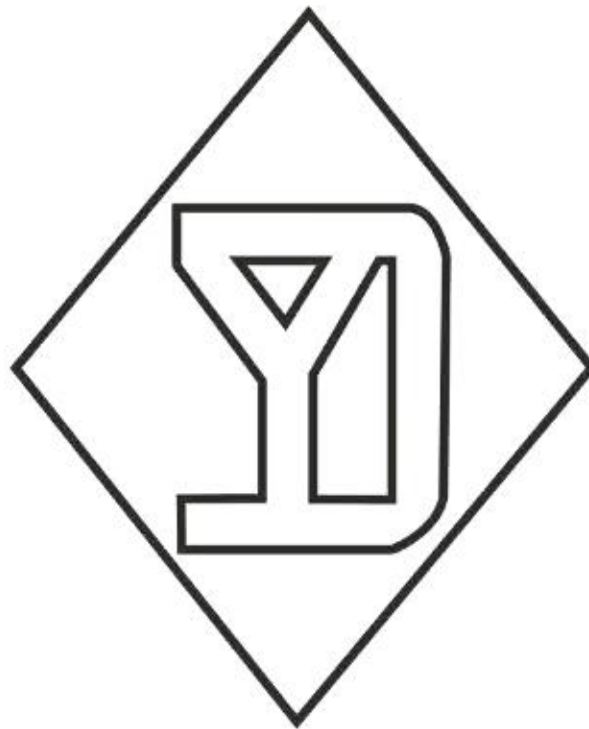
RED



Sgt. Stubby gained many awards and medals, including the three below, which he wore on his custom made jacket. Can you research them and colour correctly?



VICTORY MEDAL



'YANKEE DIVISION'
PATCH



PURPLE HEART
MEDAL

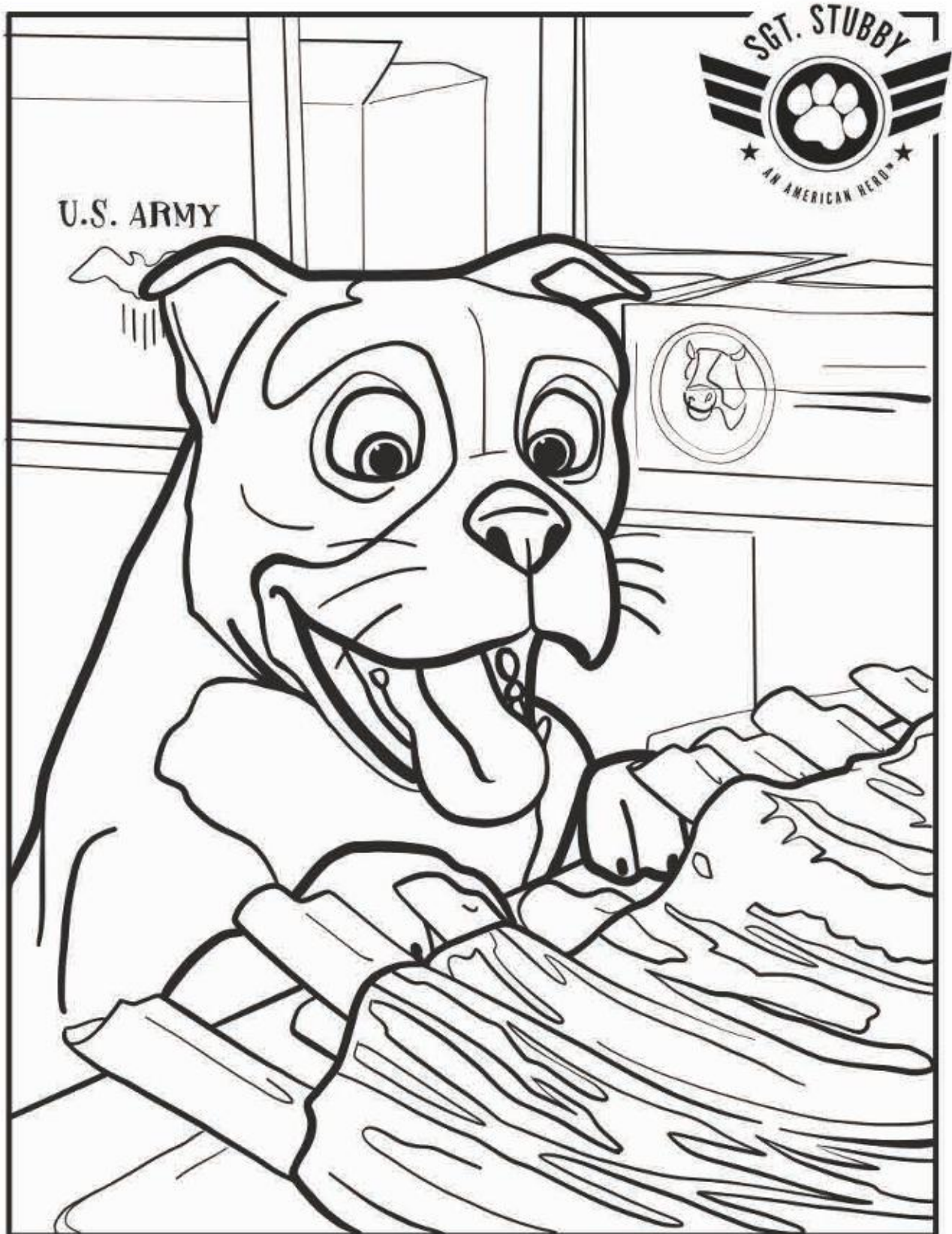
COLOURING



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COLOURING



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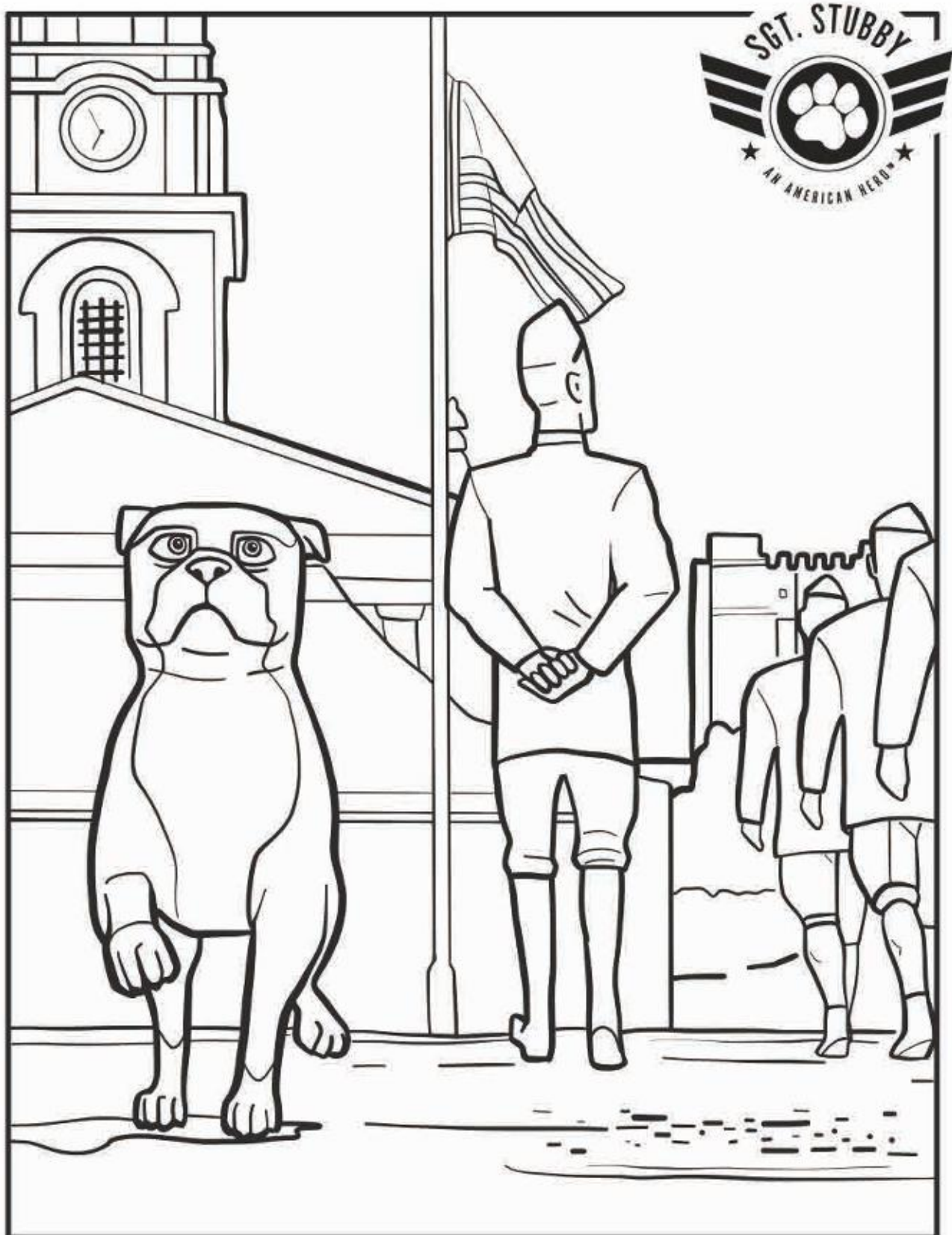
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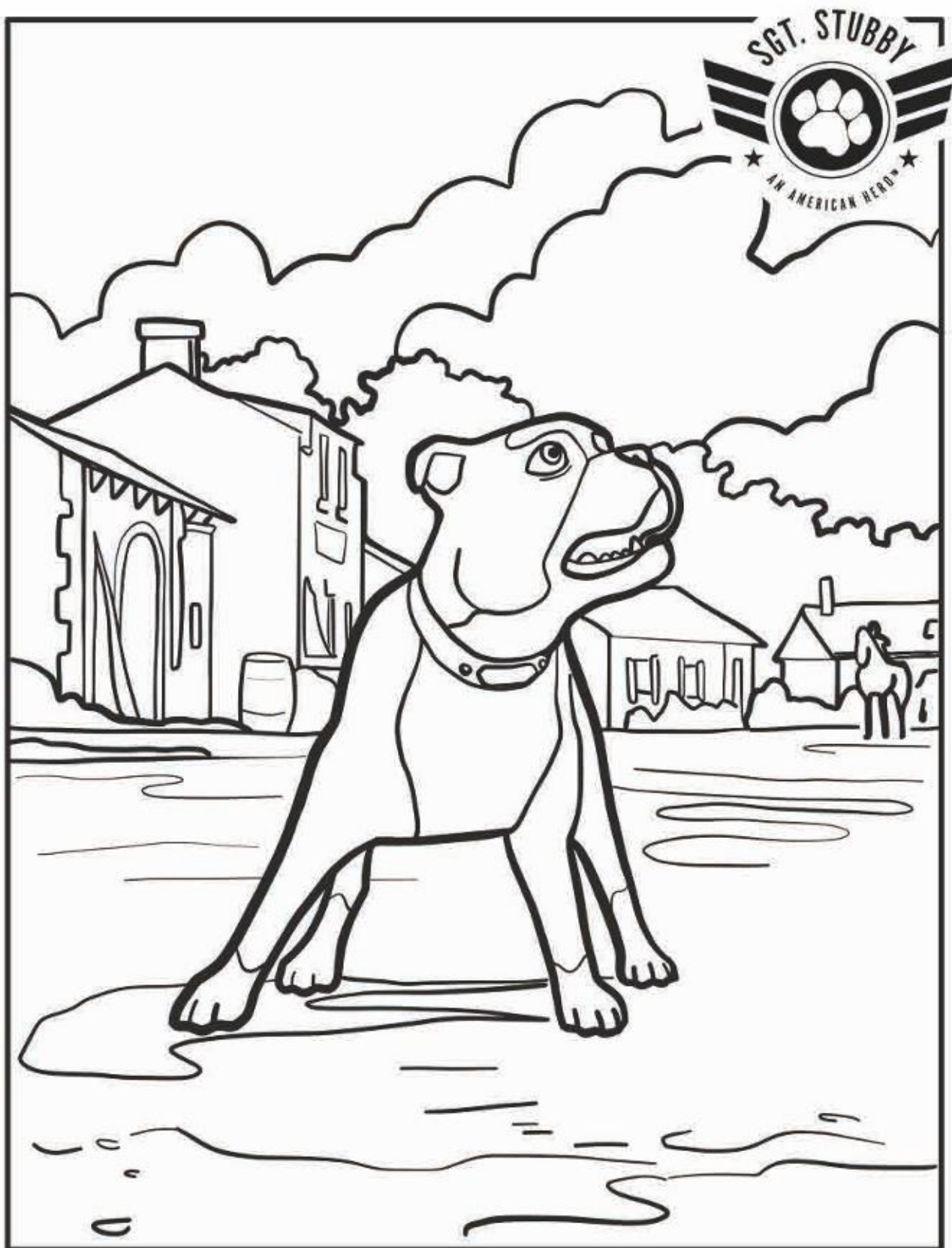
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ANSWERS!



1. American foot soldiers were known as 'Doughboys' because
b) The brass buttons on their uniforms looked like flour dumplings.



2. Conroy named his best friend 'Stubby' because
a) He had a short stumpy tail.



3. Pigeons played an important part in the war by c) Providing pigeon post, carrying and delivering important messages.*



4. The youngest soldier to serve in WW1 was how old c) 13
His name was Sidney Lewis, and he was Britains youngest soldier. He enlisted with the East Surrey Regiment in August 1915, five months after his 12th birthday, and was fighting on the Somme by the age of 13.

5. The oldest soldier to serve in WW1 was how old....
b) 78 and was a French Soldier, but his name is unknown.

*Here is Sgt. Stubby in the Smithsonian's "Price of Freedom" Exhibit next to Cher Ami, the famous pigeon who rescued the Lost Battalion in October 1918.



CONTACT US



As one of the first major animated family films to be based on a true story, Sgt. Stubby offers a "dog's eye view" of history through an entertaining, educational experience for all ages to enjoy!



Follow Stubby and Conroy's journey online:

www.stubbymovie.com

facebook.com/StubbyMovieUKandIRL

youtube.com/stubbymovie

twitter.com/stubbymovie

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