

I7

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF SUSANNA BOLLING

By Abi Gem Montecarlo

1774

1775

1776

1777

1778

1779

1780

1781

The Battles of
Lexington and
Concord

Royal forces capture
Savannah, Georgia

Battle of
Kings Mountain
in South Carolina

The British Army is in Virginia, attempting to stop the Patriot trade of tobacco for war supplies. Legend says that 16-year-old Susanna Bolling of Hopewell overhears Redcoats discussing a plan to capture the daring Patriot general Lafayette, and she decides to ride through the night to warn him. Will she be in time?



PRESENT DAY
HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

IT'S A VERY
HISTORICAL
SPOT.

HERE'S WHAT
I WANTED TO
SHOW YOU!

THE FIELD
NEAR THE
RIVER?

THE BOLLING FAMILY
HOUSE USED TO BE HERE.

IT PLAYED A PART IN THE
REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

OOH COOL!



IN 1781, THEIR HOUSE WAS WHERE GENERAL
CORNWALLIS & HIS TROOPS QUARTERED
DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

A YOUNG GIRL
NAMED SUSANNA
BOLLING & HER
FAMILY LIVED
THERE.

SHE WAS A LITTLE
OLDER YOU,

AND IS SAID TO
ALSO HAVE PLAYED
A ROLE IN THE WAR.

WAIT,
REALLY?



MAY 1781,
CITY POINT

GENERAL
CORNWALLIS

PRIMARY BRITISH
COMMANDER IN THE
SOUTHERN THEATER



DUE TO THE
QUARTERING ACTS
OF 1765 AND 1774,

COLONISTS WERE REQUIRED TO
HOUSE & PROVIDE PROVISIONS
FOR BRITISH SOLDIERS.



THE HALF WAY
HOUSE IS IN
CHESTERFIELD.

WE CAPTURE
LAFAYETTE.

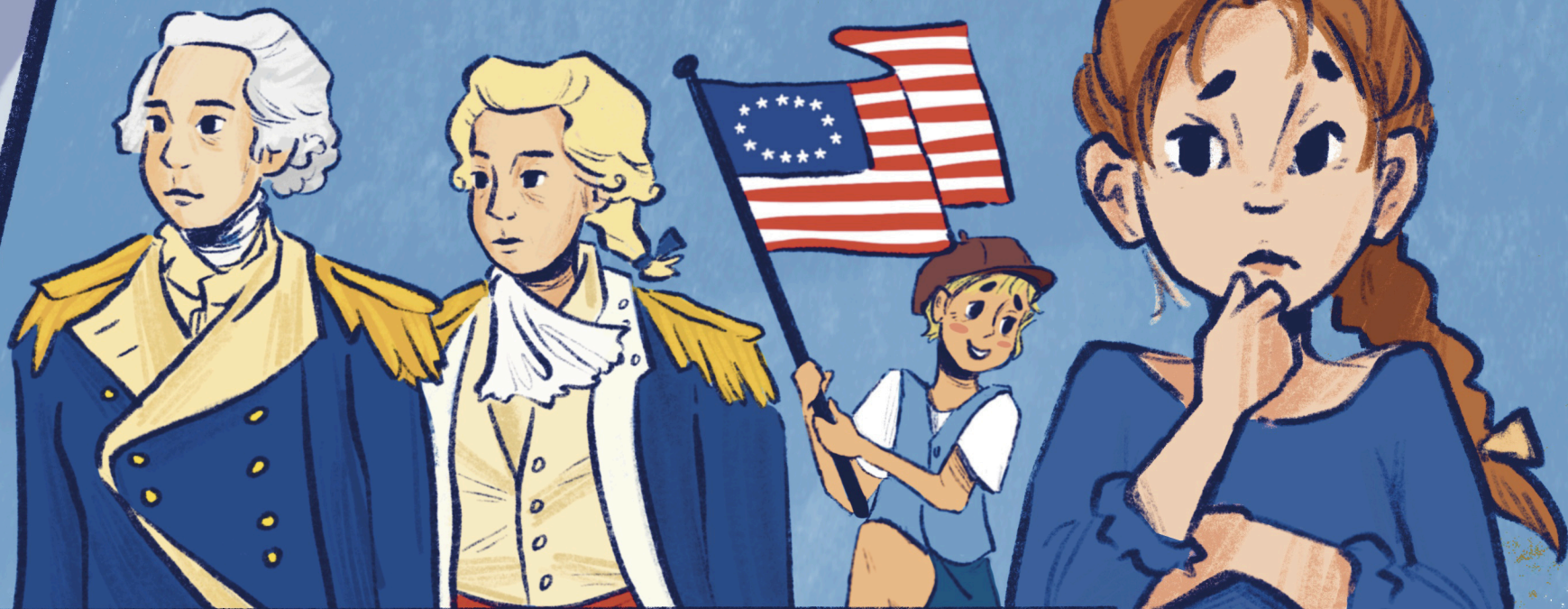
LITTLE DID GENERAL CORNWALLIS KNOW THAT
16-YEAR-OLD SUSANNA BOLLING OVERHEARD
THE PLAN TO CAPTURE LAFAYETTE.



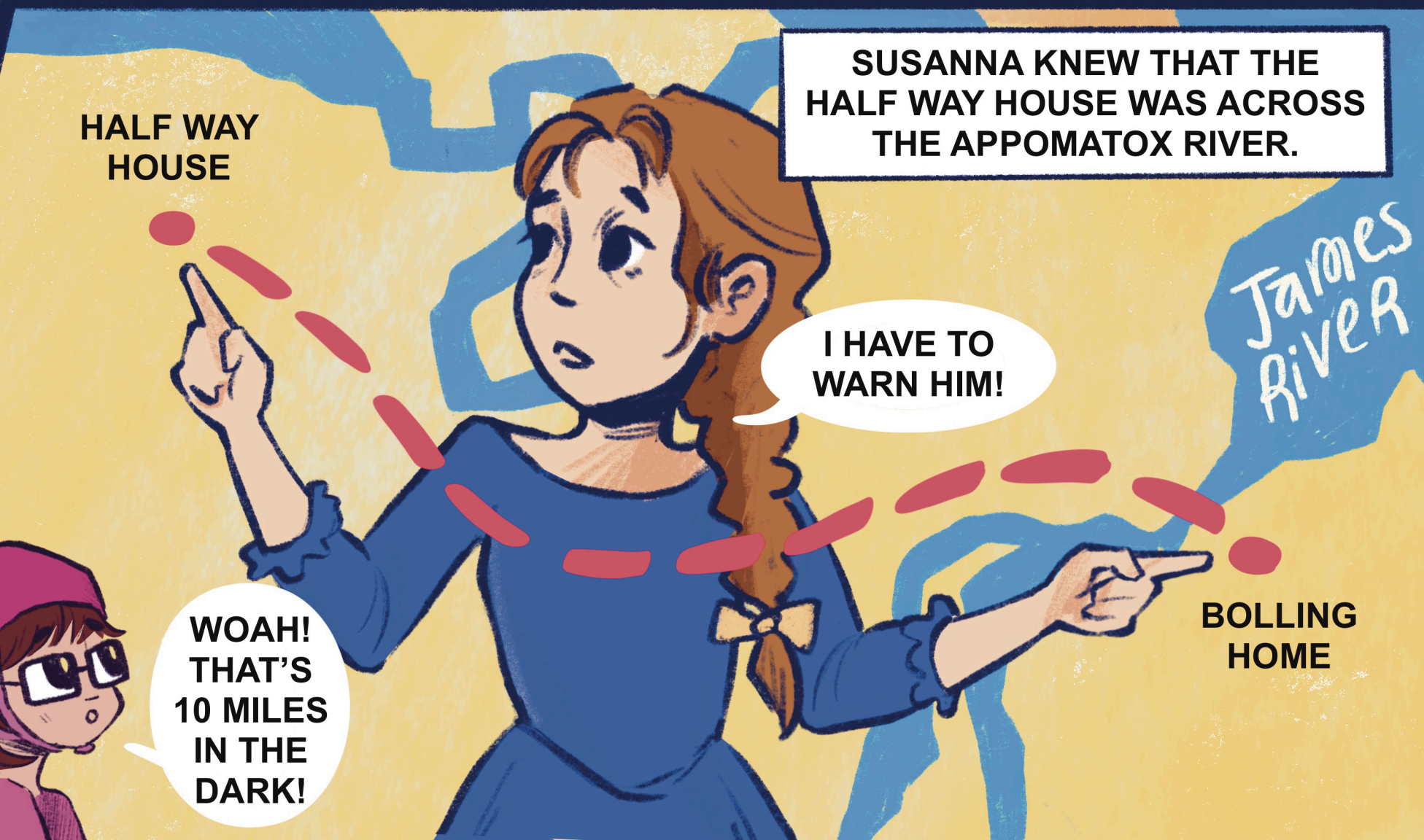
MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

THE FRENCH GENERAL

SUSANNA KNEW HOW IMPORTANT LAFAYETTE'S ROLE WAS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.



LAFAYETTE WAS A MAJOR GENERAL FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON, HELPING SECURE VITAL FRENCH MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE COLONIES



SUSANNA KNEW THAT THE HALF WAY HOUSE WAS ACROSS THE APPOMATOX RIVER.

HALF WAY HOUSE

I HAVE TO WARN HIM!

James River

WOAH! THAT'S 10 MILES IN THE DARK!

BOLLING HOME

NANNA, SHE WAS ALONE
WASN'T SHE? DO YOU
THINK SHE WAS SCA—

OH, I WAS
TERRIFIED!

ESPECIALLY
AT SUCH A
YOUNG AGE.

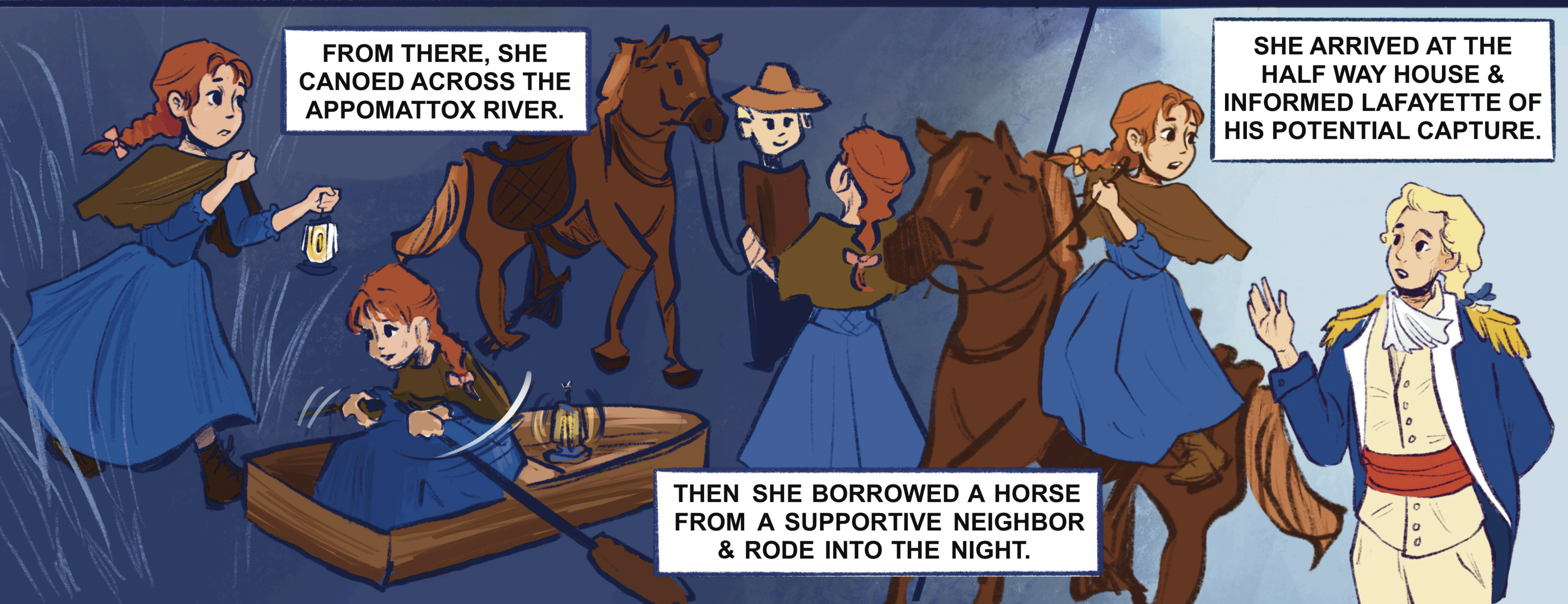
SHE SNUCK OUT UNDETECTED VIA
TUNNEL & BEGUN HER JOURNEY.



FROM THERE, SHE
CANOED ACROSS THE
APPOMATTOX RIVER.

SHE ARRIVED AT THE
HALF WAY HOUSE &
INFORMED LAFAYETTE OF
HIS POTENTIAL CAPTURE.

THEN SHE BORROWED A HORSE
FROM A SUPPORTIVE NEIGHBOR
& RODE INTO THE NIGHT.



WHAT HAPPENED
AFTER SUSANNA
WARNED LAFAYETTE?

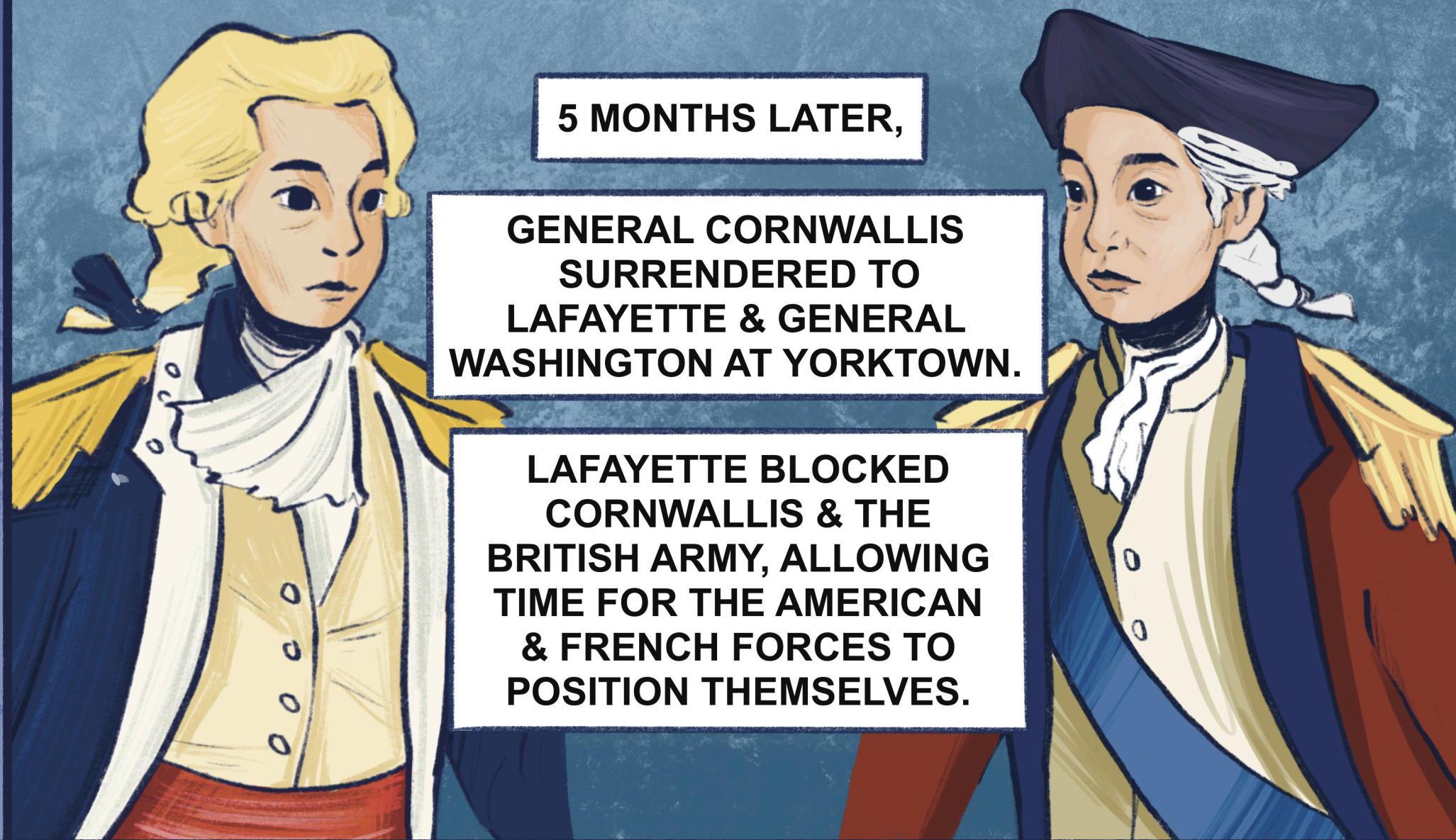
WELL, LAFAYETTE
SUCCESSFULLY
EVADED CAPTURE.



5 MONTHS LATER,

GENERAL CORNWALLIS
SURRENDERED TO
LAFAYETTE & GENERAL
WASHINGTON AT YORKTOWN.

LAFAYETTE BLOCKED
CORNWALLIS & THE
BRITISH ARMY, ALLOWING
TIME FOR THE AMERICAN
& FRENCH FORCES TO
POSITION THEMSELVES.



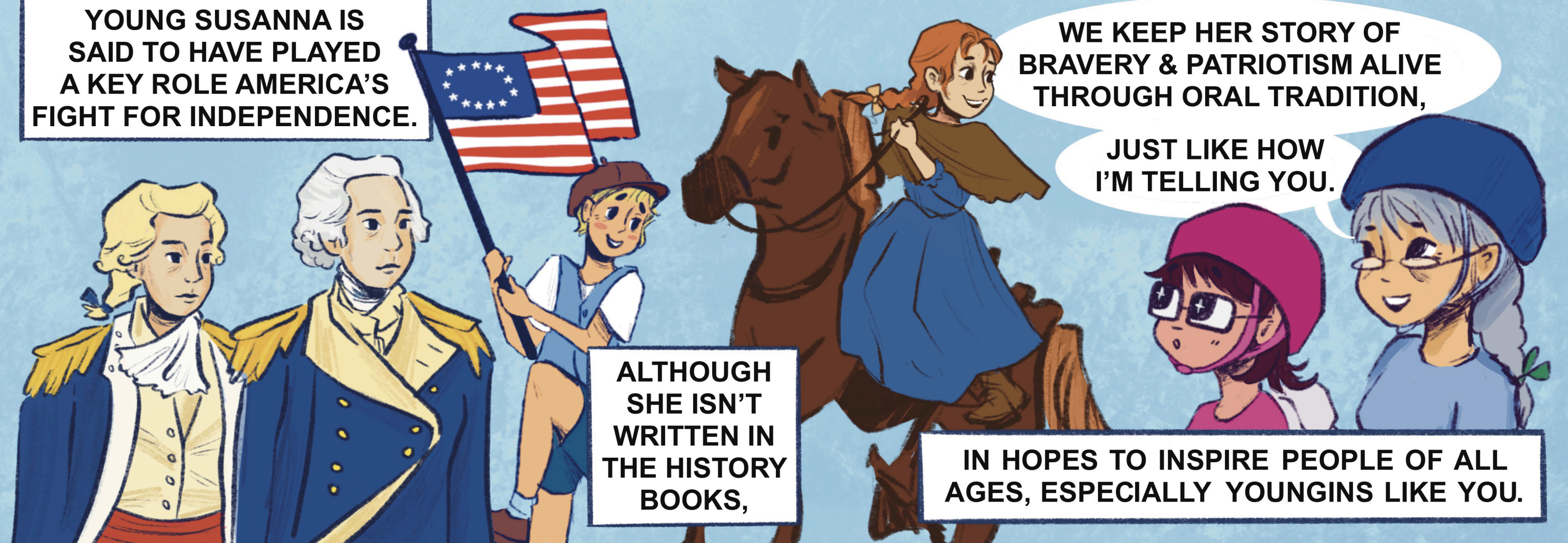
YOUNG SUSANNA IS
SAID TO HAVE PLAYED
A KEY ROLE AMERICA'S
FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE.

WE KEEP HER STORY OF
BRAVERY & PATRIOTISM ALIVE
THROUGH ORAL TRADITION,

JUST LIKE HOW
I'M TELLING YOU.

ALTHOUGH
SHE ISN'T
WRITTEN IN
THE HISTORY
BOOKS,

IN HOPES TO INSPIRE PEOPLE OF ALL
AGES, ESPECIALLY YOUNGINS LIKE YOU.



Questions to Consider

1. What was the most important point of this chapter?
2. Where is Hopewell in relation to your home?
3. What is a legend? How is it different from a myth? Or an autobiography?
4. What was significant about what Susanna Bolling supposedly did?
5. How did Susanna Bolling's ride compare to Paul Revere's ride in terms of length and danger?

Learn More

-  ["16-year-old Susanna Bolling, Revolutionary heroine: Fact or myth?" by Randy Walker, Cardinal News](#)
-  ["Podcast on the legend of Susanna Bolling," by Dutchie Jessee of Cardinal News with author Libby McNamee](#)