

Minnesota

2020 Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts

LESSON

How a Name Carries a Reason

Civil War Recipes

TEACHES

4.1.8.1

Distinguish literal from figurative language in stories, poems or songs.

WHY THIS EARNS THE STANDARD

Students determine the meaning of a phrase or nickname from surrounding explanation and context.

The canonical lesson that follows is unchanged. This cover is an additive curriculum-placement layer.

TumbleTA | Tumbleweed Press Inc. | Corrected build 2026-09-09

TUMBLETA | GRADE 4 ELA | STANDALONE SKILL LESSON

How a Name Carries a Reason

Civil War Recipes

20 minutes

OBJECTIVE

Infer why a figurative nickname was used and explain what the name reveals about the object.

STUDENT PRODUCT

A meaning statement with the clue, inferred reason, and what the nickname emphasizes.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why would people call a food by a name such as 'tooth dollars' or 'sheet iron crackers'?

TEXT FOCUS

Colorful food nicknames whose reasons are explained or strongly cued by context.

LESSON SEQUENCE

1. Read the name literally | 3 min List the ordinary images or qualities suggested by the nickname.
2. Find the clue | 5 min Locate the stated reason or contextual description.

3. Infer the connection | 4 min Explain how the literal image connects to the actual food.
4. State what the name emphasizes | 6 min Write what quality the nickname makes memorable.
5. Check | 2 min Use the book's reason, not an invented origin story.

TEACHER KEY / EXPECTED THINKING

The figurative names highlight noticeable qualities such as hardness, shape, or appearance; context explains why the comparison made sense to people using the food.

LOOK FOR

- Uses contextual evidence.
- Explains the figurative connection.
- States what quality the nickname emphasizes.

TumbleTA | Grade 4 ELA | Canonical standalone skill lesson