

## The General and the Corporal

LISTEN to your child read this story aloud.

You probably know about our first president, George Washington. Many people think of him as one of the greatest men in American history.

One winter day, while his army was building fences and cabins to make a camp in the winter, General Washington walked around to see how things were going. He walked past a man giving orders to the other men. The man giving the orders was a corporal, the lowest ranking officer in an army.

General Washington noticed that the men were struggling to lift a heavy log. The corporal shouted at the men to try harder to lift the log, but he never offered to help.

Finally, General Washington, who was very tall and strong, stepped in to help the men. Soon they lifted the log in place. He looked at the corporal and asked, "Why aren't you helping your men with this heavy lifting?"

"Why?" said the man. "I am a corporal! I am an important man."

"Oh, indeed," said Washington. "Well, I am the general, and the next time you have a log that is too heavy for your men to lift, send



for me." Then he unbuttoned his coat and showed the uniform that he was wearing.

The little corporal felt terrible when he saw that it was the great General George Washington who had helped with the work. He realized something important then. Truly great men are never too great to help others.

**Retold by Mary Rose** 

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Week-by-Week Homework for Building Reading Comprehension and Fluency: Grades 2–3 SCHOLASTIC TEACHING RESOURCES

