



Stonewall Jackson: Peccadillos

Name _____

General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was one of the most successful and respected generals of the Confederacy during the Civil War. He played a major role in key victories such as the First Battle of Bull Run, Harper’s Ferry, and Chancellorsville. But aside from his military genius, Jackson was also known for his many **peccadillos** — quirky or eccentric behaviors that were unusual but mostly harmless.

Here are a few of Jackson’s well-known peccadillos:

- **Belief in bodily imbalance:** Jackson believed his body had uneven circulation, so he often held one arm in the air — even while riding into battle — to help “balance” his blood flow.
- **Strict religious observance:** A devout Presbyterian, Jackson refused to fight on Sundays unless absolutely necessary. He avoided most forms of entertainment and believed every event was part of divine providence.
- **Unusual diet and health beliefs:** He was extremely concerned with his health, avoided pepper because he thought it made his leg ache, and followed a rigid, selective diet based on what he believed would maintain internal balance.
- **Extreme secrecy and discipline:** Jackson was highly secretive, even with his officers. He demanded total obedience and enforced strict discipline among his troops.

Your Task:

In the spirit of Stonewall Jackson, write a well-developed paragraph (or more) describing and analyzing at least **one peccadillo** — a quirky or eccentric behavior. You can write about yourself, someone you know (without naming them), or a character from books, movies, sports, or history.

Be thoughtful in your analysis:

- What is the peccadillo?
- Where did it come from or why does the person do it?
- Is it harmless, helpful, or problematic?
- How do others react to it?

