

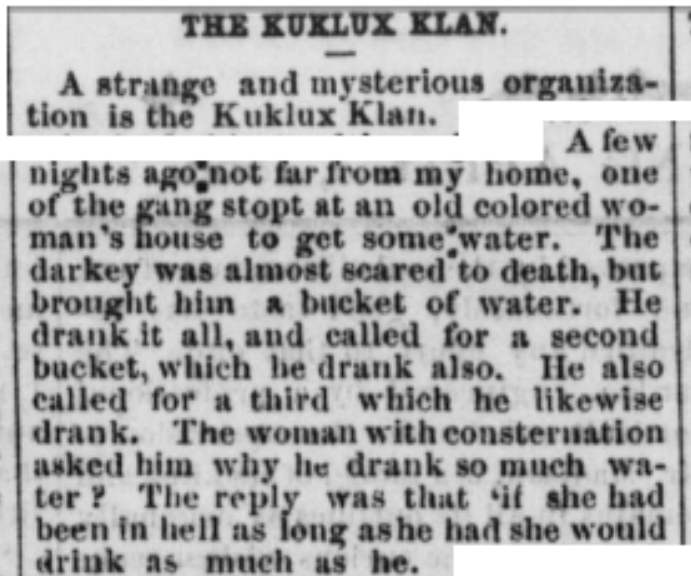
December 25, 1868, the colored people had a ball near Jonesville, Va., when a party of men styling themselves Kuklux came into the house where the colored people were holding their ball, and deliberately fired their revolvers among them. One of the white men, named Wallace Woodward, placed his pistol close to this colored woman and shot her through the body, inflicting a dangerous, and possibly mortal wound. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Woodward by the civil authorities, but he is still at large.

Published March 19, 1869
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Bristol, VA, & Tennessee
Page 1, column 4
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CHOOSE ONE and write a scene using dialogue and description, including sensory details (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste):

1. Imagine it's Christmas Day and you're an African-American man or woman attending a "ball" when klansmen storm into the house. What do you say and do? Make up the missing details.
2. Imagine you're one of the group of klansman who storm into a house where African-American families are celebrating Christmas. What do you say and do? Make up the missing details.



Published April 3, 1868
The Native Virginian
Page 2, column 3
Orange, VA
www.loc.gov

A strange and mysterious organization is the Kuklux Klan... A few nights ago not far from my home, one of the gang stopt at an old colored woman's house to get some water. The darkey was almost scared to death, but brought him a bucket of water. He drank it all, and called for a second bucket, which he drank also. He also called for a third which he likewise drank. The woman with consternation asked him why he drank so much water? The reply was that if she had been in hell as long as he had she would drink as much as he.

Note: Klansmen would hide containers (such as a sheep's bladder) under their clothing, and pretend to drink a lot when they were actually filling a container.

CHOOSE ONE and write a scene using dialogue and description, including sensory details (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste):

1. Imagine you are the old woman mentioned in this newspaper account. Write this scene from your point of view. Make up the missing details.
2. Imagine you are the man who spooks this old woman. Write this scene from your point of view. Make up the missing details.



white and colored Republicans of both sexes, were lashed, stoned, and otherwise brutally beaten. In one instance a party of six men in the disguise of the Klan took a white woman from her bed in the dead hour of night, tore the clothes from her back, and while thus in a state of nudity inflicted upon her sixty lashes, and the only excuse for this, was that she had dared to teach "a n----- school."

From an article summarizing the March 25, 1872, trial of Dr. John C. James of Danbury, VA, who was charged with violations of the Ku Klux Klan Act. This Act, also known as the Civil Rights Act of 1871, was passed by Congress in April 1871.

Published March 29, 1872
The Daily State Journal
Richmond, VA
Page 1, column 2
www.loc.gov

CHOOSE ONE and write a scene using dialogue and description, including sensory details (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste):

1. Imagine you are the white woman mentioned in this article. Write this scene from your point of view. Make up the missing details.
2. Imagine you are one of the six men in Klan clothing who breaks into this woman's house and lashes her. Write the scene from the man's point of view. Make up the missing details.

THE K. K. K.

It was well known that on the 7th of April the "K K K.'s" would be in Richmond, and members on the Radical side wanted money to get themselves and families away from here. Already a tall, mysterious looking personage had come to his boarding-house, and registered thus: "K. K. K.,—a triangle X a half moon—to K. K. K."

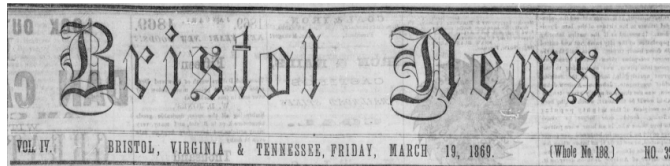
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Published March 31, 1868
The Daily Enquirer and Examiner
Richmond, VA

Page 1, column 3
From the Library of Virginia archives,
800 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219

WRITING PROMPT:

Imagine you're the owner of the boarding house mentioned in this article. Write about the moment the tall man walks in the door. Use dialogue and description, including sensory details (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste). Make up the missing details.



as I started off I was fol-
lowed by a son of Mr. Richmond, who told
me that
about two months ago a secret organization
styled the Kuklux had been started up at
the seminary, and that the members thereof
had commenced driving off all the negroes.
His father, he said, had tried to protect his
negroes, when the Kuklux turned on him,
drove off his tenants, white and black, and
threatened his and his son's life.

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CHOOSE ONE and write a scene using dialogue and description, including sensory details (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste):

1. Imagine you're a landowner and group of men in costume on horses come onto your property, scaring away the families who rent from you. What do you say? What do you do? Make up the missing details.
2. Imagine you're an African-American man whose family rents land and farms it, and one night a group of men in costume on horses come to scare you away. What do you say and do? Make up the missing details.