



## The Mexican War – Literary Activity

*This activity encourages students to think about the literary devices employed in the poem and to find modern themes in historic war materials.*

Now, wave the green Palmetto,  
And cheer the glorious sign,  
That tells of many a victory  
Your fathers won and mine;  
They strove and struck together  
And we will strike as they,  
While an arm can wield a weapon,  
And foeman fills the way!  
So wave the green Palmetto,  
Our Carolina tree;  
Our fathers bore it through the fight,  
And so, my boys, shall we!

-“The War Song of the Palmetto Regiment”, William Gilmore Simms

This poem was composed to encourage South Carolina’s volunteer soldiers as they prepared to leave for the Mexican War.

- What is the “green Palmetto” the poem refers to? How does it “tell of victory?”
- Four lines in the poem make use of alliteration. Where are they?
- Compare this poem to a modern recruiting commercial from the radio or television, for the Army National Guard or some other branch of service. What themes do they have in common? What has changed? Remember, both are intended to be persuasive.