

TEACHER'S KEY

1777 – DANBURY ON FIRE!



Chapter 1

Correct answers are underlined:

1. Loyalists are the same as (Patriots) (Tories).
2. Rebels are the same as (Patriots) (Tories).
3. Pacifists are (for) (against) war.
4. Isaiah plans to steal a (gun) (horse) (farm animals).
5. At what age must a Connecticut boy enlist? (16) (18) (21).

Fill in the correct word(s):

1. A form of British money pound, pence, penny, shilling, guinea (all are acceptable answers)
2. A male horse – gelding, colt, stallion (all are acceptable answers)
3. The sound crows make – cawing
4. Person taking another person's place substitute
5. Town where the story takes place – Danbury, Connecticut

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe doesn't worry about Isaiah stealing his father's horse because the whole town knows that the stallion rears and may fall over backwards and kill the rider.

Things to Talk About:

1. In most states, the legal age to work is 14, although each company has its own rules. A young person can find jobs in pet care, lawn and garden work, or childcare. Babysitting courses are offered for those twelve and over. A young person can gain job credit by volunteering in church or other childcare facilities, where a few months' experience could provide a work reference.
2. Isaiah may be lonely. The students in his own school district may dislike Isaiah's bullying as much as the Academy students do.
3. David's plan is correct for the time period. This may be informal or a legal apprenticeship with signed documents stating whether the father pays Dr. Starr until David proves himself a useful worker. David would learn alongside Dr. Starr until perhaps finding an older doctor to shadow before taking over his practice. Becoming a doctor today involves pre-med in a four-year college, four years of medical school, one year of internship and two years of residency in a hospital.

Chapter Two

Correct answers are underlined:

1. Joe finds the Clarks' kitchen (dirty and cold) (warm and inviting).
2. That Joe doesn't get the job is (his fault) (his parents' fault).
3. Joe can't buy ale because (he's too young) (his family owes money).
4. Joe overhears a conversation featuring (his uncle, Judge Tom) (his father) and the town clerk.
5. Joe's father's attitude angers (the Patriots) (the Loyalists).

Fill in the correct word:

1. Joe's uncle paid the tavern bill four months ago.
2. Joe fetches the kitchen garbage to feed the family pigs/sows.
3. After Reverend Baldwin joins the Patriot army, he died/got sick.
4. Joe's father leaves the church because he does not believe in war.
5. Joe's Uncle Tom, his mother's oldest brother, is the town judge.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Mrs. Clark explains to Joe that his parents hurt the town by not paying their fair share of charity money. The fines are a town law to force them to pay their fair share. (This was before separation of church and state were clear.) Also, the Clarks prefer to pay a Patriot boy because Lt. Clark is a Patriot officer.

Things to Talk About:

1. Joe can inform himself by listening and asking questions.
2. Families of war victims have nowhere to turn except to the church. The end of April was five months after Fort Washington, where nineteen local men died or became prisoners. Most homemakers did not work at that time, so the families would have had no income.
3. Many persons blamed their religious belief for both good and bad happenings, more so in the past than now. Facts about sanitation and germs were unknown. (Of course, many persons felt that sanitation helped to avoid insects, pests, and smells!) Water-borne diseases were not recognized in those times. People might attribute illness to the "God," "witchcraft," or "bad air."

Chapter Three

Correct answers are underlined:

1. Where is Joe's former home? (Bear Mountain) (Hartford) (Boston)
2. Joe meets his grandfather and what uncle on the road? (Uncle Paul) (Uncle Tom) (Uncle James)
3. What one word causes Joe's father to leave the family farm? (Liar) (Traitor) (Coward)
4. Did Joe ever believe his father was right to oppose war? (Yes) (No)
5. Does Joe want to run away and go back to the farm? (Yes) (No) (Maybe) (All answers are correct because Joe's feelings shift. While Joe obeys his father, he still regrets the loss of the farm environment.

Fill in the correct word(s):

1. Joe's parents prefer peace to war.
2. Joe's grandfather and uncles rent out horses.
3. Jonah Benedict remains a prisoner in New York/a prison ship.
4. Joe's grandfather insists that Joe face facts regarding the war.
5. Uncle Paul has a special new gun called a rifle.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe's father accuses him of applying to work in the Patriot tavern. Only Patriots would have been present, so those laughing at Joe would also be having a laugh at Joe's father, making him angry.

Things to Talk About:

1. Joe connects warmth and cheer with the tavern kitchen.
2. This question formed a huge moral problem for American citizens. People want safety and security, which the English army and naval forces provided. And what was wrong with England taxing for these benefits? Just because they hadn't taxed before didn't mean that it was wrong, since they taxed citizens in England. The Revolution promised "freedom," but what exactly did that mean for the average person except one more war?
3. Joe has a daydream about his father's trip. A rescue would make Joe's father a town hero instead of an outcast. Joe has no opportunity to act as an adult, so he looks forward to doing the family purchasing and trading, giving more fuel to his incorrect imaginings

This may be a good time to explain the difference between "acting *like* an adult" and "acting *as* an adult." The first one is appearance and behavior. The second one is having personal agency to perform adult acts (in this case: buying and selling).

Chapter Four

Correct answers are underlined:

1. Joe's mother and father both appear to be (happy) (unhappy) (delighted).
2. The Articles of War were (newspaper articles) (weapons) (an official document).
3. Major Taylor has the authority to jail a person because he is (a judge) (a sheriff) (town clerk).
4. Joe's father took part in (the English Civil War) (The French and Indian War).
5. Joe's father (enjoyed) (hated) his time serving in the War against the French.

Fill in the correct word:

1. All of Joe's relatives except his parents support the Patriot side.
2. Joe believes that his father is crying when Joe enters their house.
3. Joe's parents want him to become a(n) apprentice.
4. The Patriot stockpile of guns is the issue for the British.
5. Joe believes that everyone in Danbury knows that his father is headed to jail.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

The grandfather tells Joe that his father will take a "trip." Before he can explain, the grandfather leaves and Joe imagines a semi-logical trip. When Joe discovers the truth, he feels his grandfather has told him a lie. This destroys his dream of the family being reunited and uplifted in the town's opinion.

Things to Talk About:

1. Answer is according to student's experience and beliefs. You might ask students to think about times they have been upset or sick, and others misunderstood that for being angry. You might also think about other books, television shows, or movies in which characters' emotions are misunderstood.
2. Answer is according to student's experience and beliefs. You might ask students to think about times their parents may have tried to protect them from something or keep them safe. The author remembers a time when she argued with her parents, believing they concealed drug or alcohol abuse in an older adult. When she discovered that the older person suffered from Alzheimer's, she wondered why that had not been revealed.
3. This question relates to text before and including the snip on page 19. Use the internet to quantify effects of emotional trauma suffered people today. (Consider war, weather events, accidents)

Chapter Five

Correct answers are underlined:

1. The Danbury Patriot commissary is a warehouse for (the rebels) (the British troops) (where anyone can buy).
2. Joe's father's (gun) (tricorn hat) (saddle) is smashed when his horse rears over backward.
3. The Patriots forbid people to buy items from (France) (Florida) (England).
4. Joe's father warns him against (smallpox) (laziness) (his grandfather).
5. Joe's father says Lambert Lockwood is responsible for the death of (his horse) (his father) (his brother).

Fill in the correct word:

1. A leather-making business is called a tannery.
2. Joe's father traded away a horse he didn't own.
3. Joe's father can't buy a saddle pad because he has no money.
4. Joe's father refuses to take any help from his father, who threatened him with jail for not enlisting with the Patriots.
5. Lockwood has not/never told Joe about his brother.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe's father fears that Lockwood will lure Joe into becoming a Patriot and later enlisting. Worse yet, Joe might become a victim, including final residence "beneath the ground."

Things to Talk About:

1. Horses must have exercise to quiet and tame them, but exercise also makes the horse stronger, so riding a lot could be self-defeating.
2. Sometimes being part of a terrifying accident or extreme and sustained violence causes changes to the brain so that the victim does not emotionally accept that the incident is in the past and no longer threatening. Emotional or physical abuse can have the same result. An adult may or may not suffer permanent damage from situations like war: a child may well suffer lifelong effects.
3. Joe's father knows the facts: the Patriots had lost New York City, Fort Washington, and Fort Lee. Valley Forge was an "invitation to starvation." Volunteers had diminished to zero, which was why the enforced draft began in spring of 1777. Boys had few options to avoid signing and running away to join the army might be their only chance to see anything outside their home village.

Chapter Six

Correct answers are underlined:

- 1 The Inn is a gathering place for (Loyalists) (Patriots).
2. The new men in town are telling (the truth) (lies) (maybe either one) about the boats.
3. Lambert takes Joe to (his home) (a saddle shop) (the militia stable) for a saddle pad.
4. Lockwood tells Joe that the black stallion will (kill) (enrich) Joe's father.
5. Does Lockwood reveal secrets about Patriot weaknesses? (Yes) (No)

Fill in the correct word(s):

1. Joe is unable to pay for the saddle pad.
2. Joe's father knows how to weave cloth.
3. The cloth sits in Major Taylor's store and does not sell.
4. The Continental Commissary is a hardware or grocery store.
5. The artificer corps is an army section that makes equipment.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe states that his father knows how to make cloth, but no one buys the cloth. He wants to sell the stallion, but men in town are afraid of it. The two sows have not birthed piglets yet, which will be the actual profit. The only "right-now-today" product the family owns is eggs.

Things to talk About:

1. Joe is in a bad position: he interrupts an important adult discussion and plans to beg for a free saddle pad for his unpopular father.
2. Joe needs answers. The split in his family means that someone is in the wrong, but Joe doesn't know who it is. He knows little about the "facts." He needs impartial advice (not that he will get it from a Patriot).
3. Joe's father warns against Patriots and against Lockwood in particular. He mentions that if Joe got closer to his grandfather, the old man would gain complete control over Joe's mind. He also warns against going to war with Paul. When Joe agrees to visit the Patriot army camp with Lockwood, he has already ignored one warning.

Chapter Seven

True or False? Mark the correct answers.

1. TRUE - The Tories vote in the Danbury town meetings.
2. TRUE - A Committee of Inspection formed in every Connecticut town.
3. FALSE - Leading Patriots oppose the Committee of Safety.
4. TRUE - Patriots would not rent to a pacifist.
5. TRUE - Sarah Knapp used to go to Joe's school.

Fill in the correct word(s):

1. Lambert's horse's name is Desire.
2. Mr. McLean sent the gun stockpile to West Point.
3. The Patriots used up their gunpowder while training.
4. A flint is a part of a muzzle-loader/musket/rifle.
5. Benjamin Franklin opposed the smallpox inoculation.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe's father is not interested in neighborhood quarrels: he wants Joe to borrow the pony with no more fuss about Sarah. Joe is angry at his dad for asking if Joe had caused the rift with Sarah. The father wants Joe to focus only on his main goal. That the trip is to an army camp is now beside the point: the *end goal* is an apprenticeship decision.

Things to Talk About:

1. Joe turns defensive but realizes that his father may know something bad about Lockwood. Saying that Lockwood is a lieutenant opens a subject that Joe wants to close as fast as possible.
2. The "unfortunate position" includes poverty caused by her husband's political beliefs. While she might share those beliefs, the results appear to be more negative than Mrs. Hamilton is willing to accept.
3. In 1777, two types of money exist: British pounds and American dollars. Today, two types of money exist, American dollars and cryptocurrency. How does cryptocurrency work? Try Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bitcoin#Blockchain>

CHAPTER EIGHT

Correct answers are underlined:

1. Joe must borrow a pony to ride to the army camp.
2. Where is Joe afraid of falling off the pony? on the main street.
3. The British Army saved the colonies from the French.
4. Joe's father and Mr. Knapp agree to watch over each other's families.

Check true or false:

1. FALSE - Joe does not care that Sarah now looks miserable.
2. FALSE - Joe believes that he and Sarah were never good friends.
3. FALSE - Mr. Knapp is not friendly with Joe's father.
4. FALSE - Sarah appears exhausted from playing too hard.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Mr. Knapp says this as he agrees with Joe's father that war must be avoided at all costs. To suffocate a fire means to rob it of fuel. "Suffocating the war" would include taking away the Patriots' guns, tents, and extra food supplies.

Things to talk about:

1. Sarah is isolated from everyone her age. She may feel guilt at even leaving her house because of the baby. Joe may not realize it, but the visit to borrow a pony is a good opening to find out what happened.
2. The British never bother anyone with police actions. Taxes are relatively low. When the French and their allies opposed American forces, American mistakes and enemy savagery caused the British to sail to the rescue. Persons in New England felt concern about a French return. Patriot connections to the French raise suspicions. The economy thrives and everyone feels secure about building new homes.
3. Mr. Knapp believes that the "invasion" is a show of governmental oversight, like police driving through town to show that they exist. He hopes that ends the Patriot power grab but acknowledges that bad things may happen in the future.

CHAPTER NINE

Correct answers are underlined:

1. Sarah Knapp's little sister is Mercy (Urania is the baby.)
2. The Knapp children's dinner always comes from a tavern.
3. Sarah Knapp dropped out of school because her mother is sick.
4. If the British catch Joe's grandfather, he could be hung.
5. Sarah's accusations involve a horse and Joe's grandfather.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Lockwood reveals that soldiers don't receive pay on a regular basis and that leaders pay the militia and commissary expenses with their own money. Joe jokes about the very concept of paper money. He points out that paper money could be printed by anyone. A deeper meaning is that Joe is now aware of the hollow core of Patriot finance.

Things to talk about:

1. "Work-life balance" is a popular expression, meaning to have time for a satisfactory life away from work. Polling companies and other websites such as *Glassdoor* concern themselves with worker happiness. Check internet reports about different professions and mental health. (Who knew that veterinarians and dentists have a high suicide rate?)
2. Good roads, walking and bicycling trails – most are paid for by taxes. Government-supported museums and national parks have huge infrastructures to provide campground activities, golf, tennis, boat rental, and entertainment productions.
3. Just because a person doesn't know the reason for another's attitudes doesn't mean that no reasons exist. Joe has no understanding of Sarah's coldness until she lets slip that his grandfather confiscated the horse meant for her. After reasons for anger reveal themselves, sometimes the anger goes away – we call this "venting." Do we already see other angry persons in the book? Joe feels resentful when Lambert teases him about his father, while Lambert becomes angry when Joe adds up the Patriots' lack of flints or gunpowder, as well as the money to buy them.

CHAPTER TEN

Check True or False:

1. FALSE - There's plenty of everything to equip the troops.
2. FALSE - It's easy to ride a horse, even if you don't have a saddle.
3. FALSE - Grandfather Hamilton has no official position in Danbury
4. TRUE - The artificer company makes troop supplies.
5. FALSE - Patriot soldiers receive regular paychecks.

Fill in the correct word(s):

1. Captain Stone organized the artificer company.
2. Captain Hamilton organized the Danbury schools.
3. Captain Hamilton requires young men to enlist as soldiers.
4. Joe's questions about the Patriots make Lambert angry.
5. Joe wishes he had a saddle.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe hears that his grandfather has a life that Joe knows nothing about. He's a member of the Patriot organization that controls Danbury and was instrumental in founding the local schools. In his duties on the Committee of Inspection, his grandfather confiscates items and enlists draftees.

Things to talk about:

1. Joe is afraid to admit how much he enjoyed the busy days when the whole family worked together at the farm, where the land provided food and fun.
2. The Patriots organized the artificers to provide the commissary with equipment. They started the new paper money system and have accustomed the people to give until it hurts.
3. Joe exposes Patriot failures that Lambert would rather ignore. Joe's phrases his questions so that Lockwood must admit that Joe's father's suspicions are right.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Fill in the correct letter:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <u> D </u> picket line | A. tradesman working for the army |
| 2. <u> A </u> artificer | B. spike for making holes |
| 3. <u> E </u> Continental Army | C. part of an ox harness |
| 4. <u> B </u> awl | D. line of tied animals |
| 5. <u> C </u> an ox-yoke | E. army of Gen. Washington |

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

When Lambert explains about the use of the cradles for wounded soldiers, Joe can't imagine why. At this time, there *are* no wounded in Connecticut. The military hospital only houses soldiers for quarantine after smallpox inoculation. Former soldier Lambert Lockwood tries to impress Joe that something negative draws ever closer.

Subjects to talk about:

1. Personal experience and opinions can be related. Examples might include the "It can't happen here!" manner that each successive area of infection took in relation to the earlier effects of the pandemic in both Europe and the eastern big cities, the first to feel covid's severity. The present refusal of vaccines is a deeper layer of "It can't happen to me!" Here are real stories: <https://www.insider.com/stories-from-the-coronavirus-pandemic-2020-5>
2. Personal experience and opinions can be related. Being in the NFL might be the dream of some persons, but being a fireman or racing absolutely anything might be just as demanding of very special skills! Let your students check this site: <https://www.careeraddict.com/dangerous-jobs>,
3. Lockwood's insistence that the Patriots will never give up, plus the depressive remark, "It's only a matter of time..." cause Joe to have a sinking feeling. All three adults feel that way, too, according to their comments.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Match the words:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u> Enoch Crosby | A. Commissary officer |
| 2. <u>C</u> "The Oppressor" | B. Tavern owner |
| 3. <u>E</u> Josh Benedict | C. The British Government |
| 4. <u>B</u> Lt. Clark | D. A spy |
| 5. <u>A</u> Lambert Lockwood | E. Joe's cousin, the saddler |

Correct answers are underlined:

1. The Continental troops are in Danbury for smallpox inoculation/vaccination.
2. Josh Benedict had a saddle shop in Danbury.
3. Lambert Lockwood does not seem to worry about the boats.
4. The Patriots would not let Americans to buy goods from England.
5. Joe's father traded a horse that belonged to Joe's grandfather.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe means that his parents were individual parts of the larger (extended) family, then "knocked loose" by the argument about the war, when grandfather and father called each other traitors.

Things to talk about:

1. Mrs. McLean displays what Joe calls a "frozen attitude." Whatever happened to Mrs. McLean, she appears emotionally devastated.
2. Joe feels initial shock that the artificers will hide, but he accepts Josh's explanation because he imagines a life apprenticing for Josh after the war. Joe's acceptance indicate that he plans to draw closer to his Patriot relatives.
3. Joe hears Josh express exactly what Joe wishes would happen – to get the family back together. His reflects his weak belief in whether it *could* happen in his remark that the "splinters" may not fit back into place. On the other hand, Joe imagines his own future in the family, selling saddles to his very rebel relatives.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Match the words:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. <u>A</u> Arthur and Merlin | A. Mr. Knapp's former horses |
| 2. <u>C</u> Sarah Knapp's riding horse | B. sheep |
| 3. <u>B</u> source of woolen cloth | C. Arthur |
| 4. <u>D</u> item used to sharpen shears | D. whetstone |
| 5. <u>E</u> Pacifists | E. Quakers |

Correct answers are underlined:

1. Joe's father approves Joe's decision to learn saddlery.
2. Joe receives his first purchase order for a(n) saddle.
3. Sheep are sheared to harvest their wool.
4. Sarah is happy that Joe saw her horse(s).
5. Sarah wants Joe to light the fire tomorrow.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Mrs. Hamilton previously appeared passive and accepting of her husband's control, even if she didn't like her situation. Now she places herself and Joe on one side and Mr. Hamilton on the other. As talk turns to Crosby, she vents her anger on him, a human volcano letting off steam.

Things to talk about:

1. Stories are tailored to the audience: whether the speaker is trying to impress, reassure, attract or deflect attention. Joe wants to avoid direct attention as much as possible.
2. While the expression "for your own good" is not guaranteed true, sometimes it *is* true. A boy's desire for a change of venue might depend on poor home circumstances. Joe seems anxious for better food and clothing, as well as friends – and to see the ocean.
3. Joe already thinks that his mother mouths words she doesn't believe. Her remarks do not indicate her approval of Mr. Hamilton's belief in a good cause (pacifism) with a bad ending (jail). The fish and fresh bread, as well as fresh ale, indicate sudden family financial aid, which could only draw her closer to the Patriots.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Match the words:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>A</u> Reverend White | A. Pacifist Danbury minister |
| 2. <u>E</u> People moving to Canada | B. Chicks |
| 3. <u>B</u> Source of recent money | C. Leading British official in America |
| 4. <u>C</u> Lord Howe | D. Hartford, Connecticut Newspaper |
| 5. <u>D</u> Hartford Courant | E. Tories |

Correct answers are underlined:

1. The British troops are coming with six cannon.
2. The British boats sailed from New York to Connecticut.
3. Joe's father want to sell his horse/stallion to the British.
4. All the Knapps' Tory friends moved to Canada.
5. British policy was not to make the revolution worse.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

This relates to Lambert's remark that men talk of "going to war" without imagining that war is *coming to them*. Joe's father asks his Patriot cousin a rational question after the cousin acts shocked that more troops are coming than he had expected – as if someone had cheated on a deal.

Things to talk about:

1. The colonies never maintained a permanent army after the war against the French. This led to a shaky chain of command and no supply lines, because the colonies had no tax base to finance an army. Eighteenth century lack of communication contributed. If General Parsons had called General Washington on the phone and explained, the result might have been different. (See p. 30 snip.). It's hard to change George Washington's mind!
2. British coach and wagon roads existed for centuries. In the 1840's, a Lockwood relative still complains about Connecticut roads as, "too narrow to drive a pair of horses." The British always maintained a large standing army, largely from fear of Spain and France (also perhaps of Ireland and Scotland)!
3. The drummer (never named in the book because his real-life name was also Joseph Hamilton) thinks that Joe's father has mis-judged the scope of the British invasion and would appreciate knowing the truth. Of course, the drummer was wrong....

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Match the words:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. <u> C </u> war profiteer | A. Captain Silas Hamilton |
| 2. <u> A </u> “the old Indian-fighter” | B. Major Taylor’s store |
| 3. <u> E </u> old and inaccurate gun | C. person making money from war |
| 4. <u> B </u> where the Hamilton’s cloth is | D. essential item for a musket |
| 5. <u> D </u> flint | E. blunderbuss |

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe’s father complains that the grandfather is leading him and his brothers (Joe’s uncles) to their deaths by supporting the war. Joe’s father suddenly realizes how impoverished the family has become, both in money and emotionally. Veiled threats have reduced him to becoming a boy just following his father’s orders.

Things to talk about:

1. Class discussion can cover failure to plan for financial emergencies or to have savings. Now the newspapers tell us that stimulus money and unemployment checks often went to purchasing new vehicles, often SUVs that use lots of gas! The number of foreclosures on homes also increases because people bought them due to FOMO “fear of missing out” as prices rose and supply sank.
2. Knowing that he’s heading to jail, Joe’s father refuses to help the militia. Grandfather Hamilton forces him to comply – by threatening Mr. Knapp. Would anything else have worked? Joe is the only one who understands the original threat, but the adults are the only ones who understand just how far the threat reaches. Joe sees how Mr. Knapp’s Loyalist beliefs could affect Sarah.
3. Does the grandfather only care about the cloth because of lost money? Or does he see the spurs and know what could happen if Joe’s father continues on his mission to save the cloth?

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Match the Words:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>E</u> mounted troops | A. Loyalists/Tories |
| 2. <u>C</u> sniper | B. a roll of red flannel |
| 3. <u>D</u> bigwig | C. sharpshooter |
| 4. <u>B</u> bolt of cloth | D. important person |
| 5. <u>A</u> Americans on the British side | E. cavalry |

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. When being chased, Joe's grandfather (speeds up) (slows down).
2. Joe fears what will happen if it (snows) (rains).
3. The old man in the house (hates) (admires) Captain Hamilton.
4. The British troops set up a roadblock (near) (far away from) Joe's house.
5. Joe feels ashamed that he has (felt sick) (run away).

Fill in the correct word(s):

1. The home invasion happened at the house of a(n) Patriot.
2. The old man in the butcher shop slammed the door when Joe tried to get in.
3. Joe dreads finding his grandfather's body.
4. British troops are stationed on the road the militia took out of town.
5. Joe plans to lie to his mother about seeing his grandfather.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe recalls his united family, and the prosperous farm at Bear Mountain. Joe doesn't want to wipe away his memories of the grandfather he knew, but those memories magnify the unfortunate choices his parents have made—the choices Joe must live with daily.

Things to Talk About:

1. How do people re-adjust to new (and worse) normal? What can help them? Is it wrong to re-visit better times, or is that soothing and comforting? What should memories be in order to remain healthy memories?
2. Both Joe's father and grandfather fear the looting of Taylor's store. As Joe notes the coming rain, he comments on "...too many men in too small a town...." The human tendency is if one man shoots, *everyone* shoots!
3. If Joe begins telling his mother the story, he can't finish it because the story shows him to be a coward. Is it cowardly to run from men shooting in your direction? Joe may even avoid the truth because he thinks his mother would not believe it. (Remember, she does not yet know that the British entered town.)

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Match the Words:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <u> B </u> epidemic | A. female sheep |
| 2. <u> A </u> ewes | B. putrid fever |
| 3. <u> D </u> Committee of Inspection | C. a small battle, quickly decided |
| 4. <u> C </u> skirmish | D. Patriot officials in control of town |
| 5. <u> E </u> Uncle Tom and Uncle Tad | E. Joe's mother's brothers |

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. Joe's uncles never remember Joe's name.
2. Joe believes that his father is a(n) coward.
3. During the putrid fever, Joe lived at the farm/ Bear Mountain.
4. During the epidemic, everyone took turns teaching Joe.
5. The soldiers at the bridge knew the cannon would fire/shoot.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Mrs. Hamilton explains the true roles of the family members. Joe knew they were Patriots, but as a child, Joe didn't understand their importance. Both Captain Hamilton and Uncle Tad Benedict belong to the Committee of Inspection, the Patriot power source in Danbury. The whole Benedict and Hamilton families work to further Patriot activities, from artificer Josh to militia leader Noble Benedict.

Things to Talk About:

1. Personal Opinion. You might help students imagine their preferences by providing hypothetical situations appropriate to their age and experience, such as examining how a parents might choose to reveal, or not reveal, dangers of a pandemic, family emergencies, wars, etc.
2. Joe may gain new sympathy for his father, whether his views are right or wrong. He may attempt to rescue his father from the bad consequences of those views.
3. Joe may feel crushed to understand that tragedy will arrive for his family *unless the Patriots win*.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Match the Words:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <u>A</u> cocked hat | A. tricorn |
| 2. <u>C</u> William Erskine | B. loaf |
| 3. <u>D</u> special treat | C. British General |
| 4. <u>B</u> old-time sugar | D. wheat bread |
| 5. <u>E</u> British knight | E. carries title "Sir" |

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. Normal bread in 1777 Danbury is made of rye.
2. Joe hopes the British reveal what happened to his grandfather.
3. Joe's church clothes don't fit because he has grown.
4. Mr. Knapp's kitchen features a built-in oven.
5. Joe wears his mother's stockings to imitate knee breeches/breeches.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe reassures himself that someone in the British party will reveal the answer about his grandfather's fate. This bragging reveals other "secrets." What were they? (The shooting of Lockwood and the tale of the beheading.)

Thing to Talk About:

1. The fictional soldiers at the bridge look down on Americans because British law bans slavery, which is still legal in America. Could this attitude have affected real British soldiers? What attitude would the soldiers then display toward the white American citizens?
2. The dinner party makes Joe's mother perk up because she has something important to do. How does this apply today as our work and school structures change? Aside from actual work, what role do workplace social connections play?
3. The Knapp party is no surprise. The Knapp house is large and new (built in 1770). Very few homes would have been suitably large and well-furnished. (Although he had suggested the idea to Mr. Dibble, Mr. Knapp might not have been too happy about the party, due to Mrs. Knapp's real-life illness.) Nevertheless, it happened.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

Match the Words:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <u>E</u> bayberry | A. soft silver-colored metal |
| 2. <u>A</u> pewter | B. wearing black to honor a death |
| 3. <u>C</u> board-cloth | C. tablecloth |
| 4. <u>B</u> mourning | D. large metal mug |
| 5. <u>D</u> tankard | E. makes sweet-smelling candles |

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. A tanner works with smelly hides/leather .
2. Old Judge Benedict, Joe's mother's father, died on July 4, 1776.
3. Joe's mother wore black for a year to honor her father.
4. A trivet holds the frying pan out of the fire
5. Sarah's dress and her mother's blue ballgown are made of silk.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Mr. Knapp admits to Joe that the Patriots control the town. In effect, he is removing any blame in case Joe approves the Revolution. As Joe's father's friend, he knows that Joe may feel afraid to reveal his own beliefs about the war to either a Tory or a Patriot.

Things to Talk About:

1. Black bands around the arm or initials on a patch are the usual way a sports team commemorates loss of life. Years ago, women wore heavy black veils to funerals to cover their faces. Mourning clothing or wearing black is considered depressive nowadays. Correct funeral clothing today would be dignified dress clothes of any quiet colors. Dressing up is the modern way of honoring those who have passed, rather than wearing black.
2. Joe's mother looks ragged and depressed; not the atmosphere Mr. Knapp wants. He is trying for dignity and elegance, but she is ruining the picture.
3. Mrs. Hamilton seems happier after her clothing change. Do people act differently when wearing team uniforms or "dress" clothes? Some people wear pajamas to grocery shop: would they wear them to interview for a job? What if their new boss shops at the same store?

Chapter Twenty

Match the words:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. <u> B </u> falsetto | A. cutting up meat |
| 2. <u> D </u> what the British butchered | B. an artificially high voice |
| 3. <u> A </u> cleaver's use | C. Reverend Ebenezer White |
| 4. <u> E </u> leader of the British invasion | D. lambs |
| 5. <u> C </u> attests to beheading | E. General Tryon |

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. Joe ties up the pony in Mr. Knapp's barn.
2. Patriots shoot at the British from the other side of the river.
3. The British general says that the victims in the house were only robbers.
4. Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. Knapp suddenly appear to be on opposite sides.
5. Lambert Lockwood's mare ran away.

Explain the quotation in a short paragraph.

In another chapter, Joe overhears a British trooper's private opinion about slavery. Now, a British general repeats the same negative opinion. Joe may have new thoughts about the slaves of Danbury, such as the Lockwood family's Pomp and Peg (real persons). Some individuals, such as Lambert's father, believed they were saving them from worse fates, such as being sold "south" or to the islands.

Things to Talk About:

1. Mr. Knapp plans to keep his animals safe indoors "on a night like this." Cold rain on the shaven sheep could cause illness, but Ben Knapp also asks that the valuable pony be placed in the Hamilton's shed. Most likely, he already knew that the British arrival may attract Patriot actions against Loyalists.
2. Joe has no reason to expect his father's return, but it may be his heartfelt wish. He may also expect his father to attempt escape from the militia as soon as possible.
3. Joe's father is doing well in the prediction department. His predictions are based on deep knowledge of his fellow citizens. Stay tuned for more predictions to come true ...

Chapter Twenty-One

Match the Words:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u> A </u> 1. Major Starr | A. his house burned |
| <u> C </u> 2. General William Tryon | B. Irish door guard |
| <u> D </u> 3. Dibble house | C. leader of British |
| <u> B </u> 4. Tommy Flynn | D. Tryon's headquarters |
| <u> E </u> 5. Desire | E. Lockwood's horse |

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. Lambert wouldn't drink polluted water.
2. Lambert's "little girl" is a horse/mare.
3. All of Lambert's inherited money went to purchase his horse/Desire.
4. Lambert is not afraid of General Tryon.
5. Joe leaves, taking all of Lambert's money/pay.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe's comment to himself compares the Irish soldier to a predator looking at prey. Joe alerts to the man's intentions, which may not be good. The soldier is standing too close and seems too interested in Joe's father's location.

Things to talk about:

1. Joe assumes a different persona to achieve his goal of entering Tryon's headquarters. Do people ever temporarily "become someone else" in present-day life? Do their true personalities emerge later?
2. The officer's sudden change of attitude signals that he may be a father and that he believes Lockwood speaks of a child, not a horse. This causes the man to assess Lambert's actual physical condition.
3. The officer covers any personal concern by the remark that Lockwood could provide the British with a new problem if not aided. Lockwood's wound is not dangerous, but loss of blood, fear, or dehydration could cause a condition called *shock*. Even minor accidents can cause shock. What is it and how is it treated?

Chapter Twenty-Two

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. Tryon's headquarters were in the Dibble house.
2. Joe tries to cover Lambert's saddle with his coat.
3. The troopers thought Lambert was lying about knowing Tryon.
4. Joe prevents Desire from whinnying by pulling on the horse's ear.
5. Joe thinks no one will look for the mare in the Hamilton's shed/stable.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Going from the activity of town into total darkness is challenging to Joe. He's unsure of the horse's behavior, and the well-armed trooper at Knapp's feared persons unseen in the night, possible robbers. Joe just happens to know a boastful young robber!

Things to talk about:

1. Taking responsibility for Lambert is payback to the adult for being a cheering presence for the last several months, also for the free saddle pad. His introduction to the artificers was managed by Lambert. Now Joe is anxious to provide payback, not just because he admires Lambert, but he owes him.
2. Check back to Chapter 5. The father predicts that if Joe gets involved with the Patriots, he could end up dead. He predicts that Joe's grandfather will try to enlist him as Paul's servant. The final threatening prediction is that Joe will come under the old man's control and that his grandfather will dictate Joe's every word.
3. Joe fears that his grandfather is dead or wounded. Joe also worries that not only is *he* a coward but that he inherited cowardice from his father. And when will his lies to his mother be discovered...?

Chapter Twenty-Three

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. Joe's mother is angry that he left the house without permission.
2. Joe wants to take food and drink to Lambert.
3. The guard feels grateful for the food Joe gave him.
4. Joe is afraid that his mother won't let him out of the house.
5. Joe binds the mare's legs to make her lame/limp so that robbers won't want her.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe already fears Tommy, but a last childish weakness sends him fleeing back to the adult, in hopes of help to find Desire. Then Joe's natural grittiness takes hold. He walks back into the night alone.

Things to talk about:

1. Her husband's situation aboard the killer horse would bring lingering fear. When Joe doesn't return, she would be embarrassed to ask the British for help in finding him. Dread about why he was gone so long would be stifled along with any other emotions regarding cannon fire and beheadings.
2. Joe thinks he has a trick to escape his mother and provide Lockwood with a meal, but when the trooper outdoors reveals that strange persons move around in the dark, Joe abandons the food and turns to securing the expensive racehorse.
3. An animal's glowing eyes may only express hunger, but our hearts don't care: they seem to react to our own emotions, where a human might have opinions contrary to ours. A horse or large dog provides the weight and warmth of a human, so that their body mass carries even more comfort value.

Chapter Twenty-Four

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. The British generals were not aware that the troops were out of control.
2. The common British soldiers had nowhere to avoid the cold rain.
3. The soldiers came to raid the Patriot commissary.
4. The soldiers burned Reverend White's church.
5. The British soldiers received General Tryon's order/command to burn houses.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Lambert confesses to Joe how he lured his underage brother into the militia. The fatal mistake occurred when the teen-aged Lambert failed to understand the realities of war. While the Lockwood boys showed Christian charity in caring for the regiment's sick and wounded, fifteen-year-old *Gould Lockwood should not have been there at all*. (Perhaps a good time to explain the principle of "root cause analysis.")

Things to talk about:

1. During the militia return from Fort Lee to Connecticut, the Continental army depots at Peekskill and Fishkill New York turned sick and dying men away. They had no supplies. Discuss how this situation 250 years ago repeated during the COVID pandemic and how modern scientific and manufacturing abilities do not prevent "failure to plan."
2. The Howe policy was still to pacify the peaceful and try to stop the war from getting out of hand. Royal policy extended only to repressing traitors to the king; not to harming innocent citizens.
3. Violence against traitors is approved action on both sides, but everyone on the British side knows they must at all costs protect the general population. Tryon directs the mutiny's arson toward the Committee men, because stopping the outraged mob of drunken British soldier seems impossible, as mentioned by the officer on p. 138.

Chapter Twenty-Five

Mark True or False:

1. TRUE - Tryon wants Lambert and Joe to go free.
2. TRUE - The British officers fear Generals Wooster and Arnold.
3. FALSE - Houses to be burned were marked with chalk.
4. TRUE - Joe is now afraid of Tommy Flynn.
5. FALSE - King Herod in the Bible marked houses for destruction

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Tryon plans to give Lambert a pass but asks that he not return to the Patriot forces. Lambert's answer is the "half-lie" Joe has heard before. Lambert's direct supervisor is Dr. John Wood, now an official of the Patriot Commissary.

Things to talk About:

1. Joe would be unsure how engage in bribery. Plus, with two sergeants, each would only receive a small amount. Joe has no idea "how much is enough."
2. The pleasant New York Colonel (Montfort Brown) is the only one on the British side who pays attention to Joe.
3. This is a mystery for which Joe wants no answer. Joe feels that Tommy has evil intent, but just what kind he cannot know. Therefore, Joe insists that both he and his mother will be well-protected by staying at the Knapp house.

Chapter Twenty-Six

Mark the following statements true or false.

1. TRUE - Some British were afraid of their own troops.
2. FALSE - No one burned any Benedict property.
3. TRUE - Joe wants to save Jonah's property.
4. TRUE - The rain saved many houses from the flames.
5. FALSE - Nothing was stolen from Mr. Knapp.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe doesn't know what will happen to his father. The stallion may panic at gunfire or rear, causing his father a painful fall. Joe's anger at the Patriots begins to build as he considers how his father's desire for peace has made him into a victim.

Things to talk About:

1. Joe sees the British wagons moving out. The officers at the Knapps' will have scattered to their various posts. Joe will have no one to ask for help.
2. Without close examination, it may be difficult to recognize an unconscious person's true state. Breathing may be "shallow," meaning not easy to see. Normally warm skin would be very cold on a person who had been out in cold or rain. A drowning victim may appear dead but may respond to immediate action. Today, even a person whose heart has stopped may recover. Knowledge of first aid may help in getting a job!
3. Joe feels immensely disappointed that he has tried everything but has helped no one. Always hanging over him is that yesterday he was just a little boy running home to his mother.

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Mark True or False:

1. FALSE - Mrs. Hamilton knew all about the burning houses in town.
2. FALSE - Joe understands that he's now a hero.
3. FALSE - Tommy has no respect for little Mr. Knapp.
4. TRUE - Sarah fears that her father might shoot someone.
5. TRUE - Mr. Knapp thinks Patriots might burn his house.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe's imagination leads him astray once more. His schemes to keep his father out of jail fail. Humiliated, Joe is at the last outpost of outrage and his grandfather's remarks push him over the edge and into fateful words of blame.

Things to talk About:

1. If Joe tells anyone about the X, he would be asked how he knew about it. Besides, if the X protects the house, why mention it? However, *yesterday* the British X protected, and *today* makes it a mark of shame.
2. Joe tries to express the seriousness of the situation without frightening his mother, who knows nothing about the situation in town. The idea being that "Disaster is close, but not here."
3. Tommy does the most heroic act because he could have run away and left the horse and pony to burn, but he values the animals as living creatures. Joe, on the other hand, overcomes his fear because of sympathy for Sarah. He also may expect blame for putting Lambert's mare in the shed.

Chapter Twenty-Eight

Mark True or False:

1. FALSE - Tommy Flynn is a criminal for burning the shed.
2. FALSE - Joe gets word that his father is safe.
3. FALSE - Tommy doesn't need to hide from Patriots now.
4. FALSE - The Hamiltons' shed can be fixed.
5. FALSE - Mr. Knapp locks Tommy up.

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. The two sows may have been stolen by Isaiah.
2. Tommy wanted tea, not coffee.
3. Mr. Knapp tells Tommy he might be shot/killed on the street.
4. Mr. Knapp won't give Tommy money for working in the tannery.
5. Mrs. Hamilton now believes that the Patriots will win the war.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe's mother seeks legal accuracy as she moves forward, step-by-step, toward admitting that the Patriots may win the war.

Things to talk About:

1. Many criminals hide their emotional problems when they might benefit by revealing them and receiving help to erase them. The need for help is sometimes hidden until disaster strikes. (Think of Mrs. Hamilton's remark about Mr. Knapp concealing their need for help, mentioned early in the book.) A person will never get either help or good advice if no one knows that person's feelings or intentions.
2. Tommy is trapped by circumstance. He wants to join a society after being "the enemy" only hours ago. He owns nothing and knows no one. He would be imprisoned or worse if caught in public by Patriots. Without even a change of clothes from his enemy uniform, he will do anything on promise of being kept safe. The tannery's smell would repel accidental visitors!
3. From either Patriot or Tory point of view, Mr. Knapp has committed a crime. From his own point of view, he may now have found, not a prisoner, but another set of much-needed hands. (Remember that Mr. Knapp knows nothing more of the downtown fires than Joe's scary remark, "It's all gone." (p.150). Mr. Knapp has a large property to protect and apprentice's cabin is near the leather storage.

Chapter Twenty-Nine

Mark True or False:

1. TRUE - Jonah's main problems are starvation and dehydration.
2. TRUE - Joe knows that Dibble's kitchen has a cider supply.
3. TRUE - Uncle Tad and Uncle Tom are Patriots.
4. FALSE - Joe's father volunteered to join the militia.
5. FALSE - Uncle Tad's lawyer office was saved.

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. Joe and his uncles save Jonah.
2. Uncle Tad's job is Danbury town lawyer.
3. Joe volunteers to bring milk for Jonah.
4. The Knapp family home and tannery could be confiscated.
5. Old Mrs. Clark is weeping as she begs Joe to find a worker/help.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe misses several meals but lacks the courage to ask for food. His uncles speak to him in a dismissive manner. Joe's life spirals down, including how he feels about himself. How life could improve from here involves leaving town to apprentice. And where is his father, who is supposed to arrange that?

Things to talk About:

1. Once again, Joe feels that he didn't *do* anything for Jonah, which makes him feel more depressed.
2. Probably both. The story has traced Mindwell Benedict Hamilton's stifled anger from start to her low-key explosion. Her family were and remain Patriots, as were other church members and shopkeepers. Fear of insulting interactions confined her to her home, watching poverty approach. A breakout was bound to happen.
3. Joe searches for an outlet for his own anger. Anger can veer away from blaming one's self and focus on someone else.

Chapter Thirty

Mark True or False:

1. FALSE - Isaiah wanted the pigs more than a horse or pony.
2. TRUE - Isaiah's father approves Isaiah's law-breaking actions.
3. TRUE - Sarah isn't afraid of Isaiah because Tommy is there.
4. TRUE - Unknown persons now have the Hamilton pigs.
5. FALSE - Joe's anger against the Patriots has disappeared

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Tommy makes a choice when he agrees to the tannery in exchange for safety in his new life. Only now does he understand what he agreed to. Joe knows that Tommy will be miserable.

Things to talk About:

1. Isaiah might run away as soon as he recovers his health. OR: kindly Mr. Knapp, might be the only good example Isaiah has ever known. (True fact: years later, Benjamin Knapp advertised for a runaway apprentice!)
2. Tommy never receives a kind word for risking his life for the horses. Joe's relationships with both Sarah and Lambert would have ended in misery and recrimination without his heroic act. Joe again feels responsible for an adult, although he experiences genuine sadness about giving the job away. Tommy is overjoyed, but Joe's only thanks is seeing this imagined plan work out.
3. Joe remembers a "real" grandfather in the farm pastures of his childhood. He does not want to be like the man who ruined his father's youth by taking him to war. Joe does not want to be the man who called his son a traitor and now threatens to jail him. But does Joe truly know his grandfather? How can a teenager understand what forces have molded the 55-year-old man?

Chapter Thirty-One

Mark True or False:

1. FALSE - Tommy did not welcome work at Clark's Tavern.
2. FALSE - No one has heard anything about General Wooster.
3. TRUE - Joe and Captain Hamilton ride the same horse.
4. TRUE - Captain Hamilton isn't angry with Joe until Joe yells at him.
5. FALSE - Joe's father does not know how to weave.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe has had little contact with his two uncles, who are public figures and twenty years older than his mother. Joe notes that his uncles may not remember his name. They show no sympathy, ordering Joe around; then Uncle Tad snaps at Joe's remarks about being a tavern-keeper. But a new politeness from Uncle Tad follows Joe's second comment about the financial benefits of tavern-ownership. The offer to shake hands surprises Joe.

Things to talk About:

1. The following link stems from NIH (The National Institute of Health): [Sleep Deprivation-and-Deficiency - https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/sleep-deprivation-and-deficiency -](https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/sleep-deprivation-and-deficiency)
2. These links discuss both [Sons of Liberty-Terrorists - https://www.varsitytutors.com/earlyamerica/early-america-review/volume-1/sons-liberty-patriots-terrorists](https://www.varsitytutors.com/earlyamerica/early-america-review/volume-1/sons-liberty-patriots-terrorists) and the [Committees - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_of_safety_\(American_Revolution\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_of_safety_(American_Revolution)) From the fictional Joe to real-life CT Governor Trumbull, everyone recognized that violent elements could blame criminal actions on "Patriotism." Mass action caused the arson of the governor's mansion while Gen. William Tryon was New York governor. In the present day, these factors turn street protests into dangerous situations.
3. In the beginning of the book, Joe learned that his grandfather was "using" people to benefit the Patriot cause. As the story progresses, Joe uses the British leadership (to discover his grandfather's fate) and then Tommy (to get access to the Dibble house). Finally, he tries to use his grandfather to save his father from jail.

Chapter Thirty-Two

Mark True or False:

1. TRUE - Robbing remained an issue even after the British left town.
2. FALSE - Every house in downtown Danbury was burned to the ground.
3. TRUE - The county sheriff did not live in Danbury.
4. TRUE - Joe does not understand what the deserters tell him.
5. TRUE - Sarah longs for the freedom she had as a child.

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. Joe must return Desire's saddle and bridle.
2. Lambert feared that the British would burn his stepmother's house.
3. The deserters are not citizens of Danbury.
4. The sheriff and his men appear willing to shoot/kill the deserters
5. Joe is afraid his father will end up like Jonah.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe and Sarah speak of hunting food for dinner, then find that others have already picked the best spring greens. This scene is not the result of the recent issues. Fiddle ferns and wild asparagus just grew. It wasn't unusual for kids and women to search out wild edibles as a social occasion.

Things to talk About:

1. Personal stories – encourage readers to share similar “little memories” and why they are important. The author recalls going with her mother to a huge weekly farmers’ market next to a river in Iowa.
2. Personal opinions – adults might talk about items they had when they were children which have now increased in value. (Search sites like eBay for adults’ childhood toys to see what they might be worth!)
3. Approaching strangers is difficult, but sometimes we make it so, by not asking questions in the right way. Greeting people with “Hi!” or “Excuse me!” is better than just asking a question. Look at the person to let them know that you expect a response, or you may have to repeat your question. No reason exists to tell people your name if you do not plan to see them again, especially adult strangers. The best last words are, “Thank you.” or “Thanks for talking to me!”

Chapter Thirty-Three

Mark True or False:

1. TRUE - The separation of the family has only increased bad feeling.
2. TRUE - Joe regrets the things he has thought about his father.
3. TRUE - A lame horse has trouble trotting or cantering.
4. TRUE - A horse or person can be infested with lice.
5. TRUE - Knapp's house may be legally confiscated.

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. Joe's father had plenty of work at the family farm.
2. The penalty for treason is death/hanging.
3. The Sons of Liberty might hang men refusing to enlist.
4. Captain Hamilton planned for Mr. Dibble to be punished for letting the British use his house.
5. Joe's father gives Mr. Knapp his money.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe's mother (threatened with being charged with sedition) agrees to work with Reverend White to help families impoverished by the war. His father (threatened with jail and the Sons of Liberty) agrees to sign a military contract to produce blankets for the Patriot soldiers. And Mr. Knapp (threatened with confiscation of his home and business) agrees to pay a huge sum of money to support the poor.

Things to talk About:

1. Refusal to cooperate would have made the "victim" appear worse in the Patriot public eye than they did before. How can the Hamilton couple refuse to help the freezing soldiers or impoverished families? If Mr. Knapp refuses to donate to the poor, he's also refusing to help Mrs. Hamilton. (Also, his property would be confiscated if he didn't cooperate. This is a two-edged threat, as the Silas Hamilton Jr, family would have to leave, too.)
2. Rev. White and Mrs. Hamilton will allocate the money in a fair way. Mr. Knapp will provide money for their work. Joe's father will weave blankets for the Connecticut state militia. Joe will help Jonah. (Just what work Joe will do for his lawyer uncle remains an unpleasant mystery.)
3. Joe feels that his hopes of a paying job are finished, as are his hopes for new clothes and shoes. He will get no wages for Jonah's care. Unpaid work for his Uncle Tad will be the final punishment for trying to outsmart his grandfather.

Chapter Thirty-Four

Correct Answers are underlined:

1. Uncle Tad Benedict lost his office/records in the courthouse.
2. Joe's mother will now have a paying job.
3. Joe believes that his "jobs" will give him no money.
4. It's very important to Joe to have his own horse.
5. Captain Hamilton knows that vinegar kills lice on horses.

Explain this quotation in a short paragraph:

Joe's plan to keep his father out of jail and to return his family to financial solvency is successful. His parents may not like the solutions, but the result will be good. Joe believes that he has outsmarted his grandfather. But has he? Or did Captain Hamilton draw four more people into supporting the Patriots?

Things to talk about:

1. Although Joe might not be the best nurse, he might do all right if he enjoys being with Jonah. Not much doubt that he will like the new tavern work – if his mother gains more interest in cooking!
2. Students can give their predictions of the Hamilton family's future. (The facts are in the after-matter of the book.)
3. Joe understands now that he is caught by circumstances, a fact known as "unexpected consequences." When Joe takes on the responsibility for the pathetic horse, it anchors him to the spot as surely as Mr. Knapp's wife, children, and business anchor him. Joe sees his family coming back together, not through the imagined saddlery job years in the future, but by entering the door in front of him and repeating his grandfather's words, just as his father had predicted early in the book. (p. 24 "Then, forever after, your mouth will speak no words but the words he puts into it.")