

## JOHNNY TREMAIN

### READING GROUP QUESTIONS

1. In what ways is Johnny Tremain's life shaped by the social and economic practices of colonial America on the eve of the Revolution? What does the novel reveal about these practices?
2. What does Johnny Tremain reveal about marriage customs in colonial America?
3. What role does religion play in Johnny Tremain's world?
4. Contrast James Otis's rousing speech about the need for revolution with Samuel Adams's attitude toward rebellion. Which do you think Johnny finds more appealing, and why?
5. How does Jonathan Lyte serve as a foil to Johnny? How does their relationship dramatize the tension between the colonies and Britain?
7. Compare how Rab and the Lornes influence Johnny's psychological development.
8. How does Johnny Tremain address race in colonial America?
9. Why is the relationship between the colonists and British troops complex and often ambivalent?
10. Do you think Johnny Tremain would have helped the Whigs in their fight for independence if he had not injured his hand?

1. Which of the following trades does Johnny wish to pursue at the beginning of the novel?
  - (A) Accounting
  - (B) Blacksmithing
  - (C) Silversmithing
  - (D) Printing
  
2. Why does Johnny bully Dove?
  - (A) Dove is lazy.
  - (B) Johnny is arrogant.
  - (C) Johnny is proud.
  - (D) All of the above
  
3. Why does Mr. Lapham disapprove of Johnny's arrogance?
  - (A) Johnny does not have the talent to justify his pride.
  - (B) Mr. Lapham is a devout Christian who believes men should be humble.
  - (C) Mr. Lapham is jealous of Johnny's talent.
  - (D) Mr. Lapham harbors an irrational dislike of Johnny.
  
4. Why does Hancock commission Mr. Lapham to make a sugar basin for a tea set?
  - (A) Mr. Lapham was the original craftsman of the set.
  - (B) Mr. Lapham has a reputation for making beautiful, elaborate tea sets.
  - (C) Hancock has heard of Johnny's great talent, so he wants to see it in action.
  - (D) Hancock confuses Mr. Lapham with Paul Revere.
  
5. Why doesn't Johnny accept Paul Revere's offer to buy the remaining time on his contract with Mr. Lapham?
  - (A) Paul Revere is not as good at silversmithing as Mr. Lapham.
  - (B) Johnny is in love with Cilla and does not want to leave her.
  - (C) Johnny is the chief breadwinner in the Lapham household.
  - (D) Johnny is too busy training to be a Minute Man.

6. How does Johnny injure his hand?

- (A) Dove deliberately hands him a cracked crucible that bursts when Johnny uses it.
- (B) Johnny accidentally picks up a hot piece of metal.
- (C) Dove pushes him onto the stove while he is working.
- (D) Dove pours molten silver over his hand.

7. Johnny is related to which of the following wealthy Boston merchants?

- (A) John Hancock
- (B) Paul Revere
- (C) Jonathan Lyte
- (D) Samuel Adams

8. What does Rab think about Jonathan Lyte?

- (A) Rab thinks Lyte is an honest, upstanding citizen.
- (B) Rab thinks Lyte is crooked because he plays both the Tory and Whig sides for profit.
- (C) Rab respects Lyte for being consistent and honest in his political views, even though Lyte is a Tory.
- (D) Rab pretends to like Lyte because he has a crush on his daughter, Lavinia.

9. How does Jonathan Lyte react when Johnny presents the silver cup as proof of their kinship?

- (A) He accuses Johnny of stealing the cup and has him arrested.
- (B) He welcomes Johnny into the family with open arms.
- (C) He is not happy, but he wants to do the right thing by giving Johnny his share of the Lyte fortune.
- (D) He throws Johnny out of his house because he thinks Johnny is a liar.

10. Who comes to Johnny's aid after he is arrested on charges of stealing a silver cup from Jonathan Lyte?

- (A) John Hancock
- (B) Rab Silsbee
- (C) Dove
- (D) Mr. Lapham

11. Whose testimony clears Johnny at his trial?

- (A) Josiah Quincy's
- (B) Mrs. Lapham's
- (C) Dove's
- (D) Cilla Lapham's

12. What job does Dove take after ceasing to work as a silversmith?

- (A) He becomes Lieutenant Stranger's stable boy.
- (B) He becomes a clerk for Jonathan Lyte.
- (C) He becomes Colonel Smith's stable boy.
- (D) He becomes Paul Revere's apprentice.

13. Why does Lavinia Lyte take Isannah to live with her?

- (A) Isannah's ethereal beauty enchants her.
- (B) She needs a personal servant.
- (C) Mrs. Lapham cannot afford to support Isannah any longer.
- (D) Lavinia wants to live with Cilla, who will not consent to do so unless Isannah comes too.

14. How does Lavinia weaken the bond between Isannah and Cilla?

- (A) She tells Isannah that Cilla does not love her anymore.
- (B) She treats Cilla like a common servant and Isannah like a prized pet.
- (C) She refuses to allow Isannah to see Cilla.
- (D) She confesses her own love for Johnny.

15. Why do the Observers begin leaving James Otis out of their meetings?

- (A) They suspect that Otis is a Tory spy.
- (B) They believe that Otis is mentally unstable.
- (C) They fear that Otis does not take the need for secrecy seriously enough.
- (D) They do not think Otis is articulate or intelligent.

16. Why do Johnny and Rab toss Dove overboard during the Boston Tea Party?

- (A) Johnny catches Dove stealing tea, a violation of the ethics of political protest.
- (B) They want to get revenge against Dove for his role in the accident that disfigured Johnny's hand.
- (C) They take pleasure in bullying Dove.
- (D) They think Dove is a British spy.

17. How does England react to the Boston Tea Party?

- (A) England agrees to let the colonies have political representation.
- (B) England refuses to give the colonies political representation, but they revoke all taxes on imported goods.
- (C) England hangs some of the culprits.
- (D) England closes the port of Boston in an attempt to force the city to pay for the tea.

18. Which of the following best describes the relationship between the colonists and the British soldiers?

- (A) The relationship is completely acrimonious.
- (B) The relationship is often tense, but many soldiers and colonists have no particular animosity toward one another.
- (C) The relationship is not acrimonious at all.
- (D) The relationship is characterized by whining and petty bickering punctuated by brief displays of affection and exchanges of gifts.

19. Why does Pumpkin want to desert the British army?

- (A) He wants to own his own farm, which is easy to achieve in the colonies and very difficult in England.
- (B) He is often mistreated by his commanding officer.
- (C) He is in love with an American girl.
- (D) He does not want to fight against the colonies.

20. Which of the following best describes Johnny's relationship with Lieutenant Stranger?

- (A) It is an amicable relationship between equals.
- (B) Although it is an amicable relationship, Lieutenant Stranger always treats Johnny as his social inferior.
- (C) It is a relationship full of bitter animosity.
- (D) Where horsemanship is concerned, Lieutenant Stranger treats Johnny like an equal, but in all other situations he treats Johnny as his inferior.

21. Why did Johnny's father use an assumed name in Boston?

- (A) He was evading arrest.
- (B) He was impersonating a French nobleman.
- (C) He was ashamed to be a prisoner of war.
- (D) He was an American spy.

22. What happens to Rab in the battle at Lexington?

- (A) The British capture him.
- (B) He is mortally wounded.
- (C) He survives the battle and escapes to the Lorne house.
- (D) He receives a light wound.

23. When does the reality of armed conflict hit Johnny?

- (A) When he witnesses Pumpkin's execution
- (B) When he first learns that Rab is mortally wounded
- (C) When he sees injured British soldiers returning to Boston
- (D) When he hears the names of the first colonists to die in armed conflict with British soldiers

24. Why does it take so long for the Lytes to acknowledge Johnny as kin?

- (A) The family of Johnny's father did not tell them that Johnny's mother had a child.
- (B) Johnny's father used an assumed name in Boston.
- (C) The family of Johnny's mother disowned her for marrying Johnny's father.
- (D) All of the above

25. Who eventually repairs Johnny's injured hand?

- (A) A British surgeon
- (B) Doctor Church
- (C) Johnny's hand is never fixed
- (D) Doctor Warren