

Johnny Tremain **by Esther Forbes**

Answer these questions on a separate paper. These questions and answers are due the first day of school. You will take a test over the novel within the first few days of school. This completely answered study guide is due the first day of school.

Chapters 1–5

1. Describe Johnny's position and his behavior in the Lapham household at the beginning of the novel. What does his behavior reveal about his character?
2. What happens to change Johnny's position in the family? How does Johnny react to his new status?
3. What obstacles does Johnny face as he tries to redirect his life? How does Johnny's and Rab's friendship change?
4. Describe some of the tactics that the Sons of Liberty use to further their cause. Do you think such tactics are justified? Why or why not?

Chapters 6–8

1. How do Sam Adams and the other observers plan to respond to the British tax on colonial tea? How does Johnny help implement these plans?
2. Describe Johnny's relationships with Cilla, Lavinia Lyte, and Dove now that Johnny is living with Rab and his family. What do these relationships reveal about Johnny and his personal growth?
3. What positions in favor of revolution are argued by Sam Adams and James Otis? How does Johnny react to Otis' words?
4. In your opinion, is Rab a good friend to Johnny? Give reasons for your answer.

Chapters 9–12

1. What are some ways that the Patriots prepare for war? How would you describe the mood between Bostonians and the British troops occupying their city?
2. Explain how the Minute Men learn of the British army's actual battle plans. What do these efforts reveal about the Patriots' commitment to independence?
3. At the end of the novel, what decision does Johnny make about his future? What does this decision reveal about his values and character?
4. How does the author create suspense during the final chapters of the novel?

Final Essay

One critic said of Johnny Tremain: "And there is a fine sense of fair play in the recognition that men of all persuasions are good, bad, and indifferent." Do you agree with this statement? How would you describe the author's treatment of the Patriots and the British? Was it balanced and unbiased, or was the author advancing a particular point of view? Do you think her characters, both fictional and historical, seem well rounded? Do they have a credible mixture of faults and strengths? On a separate piece of paper, write your own critical review of Johnny Tremain, focusing on the questions above. Support your ideas using specific details from the novel.