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**The King’s Broad Arrow**

By Kathryn Goodwin Tone

**Discussion Questions - Part I**

**Prologue - Deadly Disease**

1. George Washington wants to protect the entire Continental army from a specific disease. What is it?
2. Why are the soldiers nervous about the vaccination?

**Chapter 1 - Two Ships**

1. Discuss 2-3 details each about where and when the story begins.
2. Explain the significance of the White Pine tree. Discuss this from the British point of view and the colonists’ point of view.

**Chapter 2 – Three Ships**

1. Read the statements below declared by Jeremiah and his father, Morris, when they spoke to the villagers. Choose one of the statements and elaborate on what/why you think they are referring to?

Jeremiah - “This is yet another link in the chain the English will enslave us with, if we let her.”

Morris - “The king even dares to deny our very livelihood.”

2. Eamon saw his mother in the crowd at the village center. What do you think the author was referring to when she wrote “Although they didn’t speak, it was clear that an agreement passed between them.”?

3. Sam’s father made the two statements below. Choose one and explain what you think he means.

“Sometimes men find more courage when they are in a pack.”

“They fight for the life they want to live.”

4. Before Sam and Eamon see each other and have a fight, Sam seems so upset. “The quickest route to town was past Eamon’s house. Sam does not want to go past Eamon’s house, he “did not want to see anyone, though, most of all Eamon.” Analyze what you think Sam is feeling and explain why you think he might be feeling that way.

5. Sam and Eamon have a fight. Sam loses the fish that were supposed to be used for planting corn. Sam thinks to himself, “It’s all Eamon’s fault.” What’s your opinion about this? Do you think Sam is right?

**Chapter 3 – Captured!**

1. Sam is tasked with delivering a very important message. Before he leaves, his mother pulls him close and “held him tightly for a long moment.” Why do you think Sam’s mother did this?

2. Why did Sam start a fire in the forest?

3. Near the end of chapter, Sam has an encounter with the King’s surveyors. The author does not tell us exactly what is happening on purpose. Use context clues from the last 3 paragraphs to explain what is happening in the story at this time.

**Chapter 4 – The HMS Preston**

1. At the start of Chapter 4, Sam wakes up and has many questions.

• What is this horrible place?

• Where am I?

• Who is the old man?

• How did I get here?

Use story retelling to answer Sam’s questions.

2. Who is Josiah and, in your opinion, is his arrival a good thing or a bad thing? Use context clues to explain your statement.

3. What is the significance of the medallion worn around Josiah’s neck? Share some details about it.

4. What did Gerard say about the Ideas of Enlightenment?

5. Near the end of Chapter 4, Gerard says, “It’s a bold idea - men fighting for their own beliefs...” What are your thoughts on this? Use ideas from the book and your own opinions to discuss this.

**Chapter 5 - Escape**

1. List some of the components of the escape plan and give reasons whether you think it will work or not, and why.

2. Who was Voltaire and why is he mentioned in the story?

3. Who was Johannes Gensfleisch and why is he mentioned in the story?

4. List three ways the printing press “changed the world,” according to Gerard.

5. What do you think Gerard meant when he told Sam, “you are braver than you think.” ? Do you agree with Gerard, why or why not?

6. Discuss what Josiah meant when he stated, “Ideas Matter”. Use examples from the book. Can you think of any moment or event from your own life where this quote rings true?

**Chapter 6 – Common Sense**

1. One of the guards throws a sack of pamphlets into the cell, to burn for warmth. Pamphlets were short in length, quick and inexpensive to print. Pamphlets were the easiest way to do what two things?

2. What was the name of the pamphlets in the bag?

3. Sam reads the pamphlet to Gerard and they discuss it. Name a few of the main ideas the pamphlet is trying to convey.

4. What does Gerard teach Sam about knowledge and ideas?

5. A good writer appeals to our senses. List some ways the writer of this story appeals to your 5 senses in Chapter 6. Be very specific.

6. Choose 2 of those examples and talk about them in depth, including the way they made you feel.

7. Construct a timeline of events from the middle to the end of Chapter 6.

**Chapter 7 - Freedom**

1. Chapter 7 is called “Freedom”. Share some details about Sam’s freedom. As a reader, how are you feeling right now about Sam?

2. As Sam encounters the British soldiers, he is nervous but must play along. What are some of the things he does and says so the British soldier won’t suspect him as a rebel?

3. Following his discussion with the lieutenant, he has more questions than answers. What are some of the questions going through Sam’s head?

4. Sam realizes he must cross the river. Why must he do this and what is his plan?

5. Once again Sam runs into the soldier, Bennet. Give a few details about this encounter and share how it made Sam feel, and how it made you feel.

6. At one point Sam sees a very large cannon. He then grabs his own arm with his other hand. What is it about the cannon that causes Sam to react this way?

7. How does Sam end up as a prisoner once more? Explain who comes to his rescue and how?

8. After Sam is free once more, many things happen during and after his escape. List and discuss the three most significant events between his escape from the cell and the end of Chapter 7.

9. As you consider Sam’s character and the story so far, make 2 predictions about Sam for Part II of the book.