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**The King’s Broad Arrow**

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 **Discussion Questions - Part II**

**Chapter 8 - Recovery**

 1. As Chapter 8 begins, you get a glimpse into the life of Paul Revere.

What are some of his internal characteristics you can deduce by reading about him?

 2. Paul Revere reminisces about his famous ride and shares the memory with his family and Sam. Share some details about the ride.

 3. Sam is tasked with running errands and he doesn’t mind. As he walks towards the docks, he smells a “Kaleidoscope of intriguing whiffs”. List some of the smells Sam encounters in the streets of Boston.

 4. Sam is talking with Johnny about a battle in Quebec. According to Johnny, it was grisly. Johnny described one of the worst parts when he said, “Our boats were green.”. What did Johnny mean by this and why was it a bad thing?

 5. Johnny and Sam read a recruitment poster which reads, “TO ALL BRAVE, HEALTHY, ABLE-BODIED AND WELL-DISPOSED YOUNG MEN”. Johnny asks Sam, “Why don’t you join up?”. What is Sam’s reaction, what do you think Sam might be thinking, and why do you think Sam feels that way?

 6. In your own words, explain what was going on with the gunpowder mills.

 7. Towards the end of Chapter 8, Sam feels melancholy. What is melancholy and what is the cause of this feeling for Sam?

**Chapter 9 – Cowards and Sunshine Soldiers**

 1. Sam is very hopeful as he plans his journey home. What interrupts his plan and what does he do instead?

 2. On his journey Sam comes across a wagon that is stuck on a bridge. A man approaches and eventually offers help move the wagon. What are some of the words and phrases the author uses to describe this man? Who do you think this man is?

 3. As the story continues Sam finds out the man’s name is Thomas. Sam asks Thomas if he believes that “they can defeat the British?”. Share some details of Thomas’ response.

 4. Sam visits the Morris house. What is the purpose of this visit? Share some details about this event.

 5. Mr. Morris sends Sam on a quest. Who is he sent to find? List the details of at least 5 events that take place following Mr. Morris’ request.

**Chapter 10 – Black December**

 1. Sam ends up helping Thomas Paine. Following several events they go together to someone else's house. Whose house was it and what are they doing there?

 2. Thomas tells Sam one of his favorite Ben Franklin quotes. What is the quote and what do you think it means?

 3. As Thomas and Sam prepare to attempt a printing of the pamphlets, they encounter many challenges. In your opinion, what was their biggest challenge and how did they tackle it?

 4. Sam tells Thomas about Gerard and the book he is saving for Gerard’s son. As Thomas hears compliments about the man who wrote *Common Sense*, Sam sees that Thomas’s face reflects an unusual emotion. What is the emotion and share an example from your own life when you have witnessed this characteristic in someone you know.

 5. Sam wonders if George Washington is really brave, or not. What were Thomas’ reactions to this question? What are your thoughts? Use evidence from the text to validate your opinion.

 6. Thomas tells Sam he is not fighting “for a place or a people”. What is Thomas Paine fighting for? Give a detailed answer.

 7. Thomas and Sam are eventually able to print some copies of *American Crisis*. Share several details of the plan to distribute these pamphlets.

 8. Towards the end of this chapter there are two quotes listed below.

Choose one and elaborate on its meaning and your feelings/opinions about it.

 “Fear is the strongest weapon a despot can wield.”

 “His voice was strong with conviction, but a trace of worry settled in the lines of his face.”

 9. There are different types of bravery. Choose Thomas or Sam.

Share your opinion if you think he is brave or not. Give several reasons for your opinion.

 10. Thomas seems to be in a big rush to get the pamphlets to General Washington. Why is there a rush?

**Chapter 11 – The Game is Nearly Up**

 1. Near the beginning of Chapter 11 – Sam encounters a girl, also crossing the river. Who is it? What’s the significance of this person? Share several details from the text about this event.

 2. Why is Sam so upset to be in a canoe, crossing the river?

 3. As Sam read the pamphlet, he found the sentence he was looking for,

“A generous parent should have said ‘if there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace’.” In your own words, what is this sentence about?

 4. Sam eventually makes it back across the river. Share 3-5 details

about how this happened.

 5. Describe George Washington using Sam’s observations from the first

time he saw him.

 6. What detail did Sam share with General Washington that seemed to

convince him that Sam really did know Thomas Paine?

 7. General Washington tells Sam, “Some of my hardest battles take

place when I am alone.” What is General Washington referring to? Identify what type of conflict is this?

 8. Sam meets Cyrus, a former slave. Cyrus talks about his brother Titus and their disagreements. Use details from the text to share how Cyrus feels about this disagreement.

 9. As Sam and the other soldiers are standing at attention in the cold morning air, an officer rides up, reins his horse and reads *American Crisis*. How do you know that “Each man seemed to take Thomas’ words for his own?”

**Chapter 12 – Victory or Death**

 1. A soldier named Noah tells Sam “we’re the best, thanks to Captain Hamilton.” List three reasons Noah feels this way.

 2. Ben teaches Sam the five commands for operating a cannon. List each command and explain what it means.

 3. As Hamilton and his unit prepare for battle, they face several conflicts. Give examples of two types of conflict from Chapter 12.

 4. As the boat nears Trenton, a knot of fear tightens in Sam’s stomach. Cite evidence from the text showing some of the fears Sam has. What advice would you give Sam if you were there with him?

 5. Elaborate on how Sam was able to get a “Firm mind” and how this affects his behavior and emotions as he and the rest of the army march through the woods.

 6. As the troops draw closer to the target the author writes, “General Washington’s face could have been cut from stone - it was resolute and unyielding.” Use your own words to describe what the author is trying to convey.

 7. List at least 5 events that took place during the battle, as described in Chapter 12, and note the significance of each.

 8. In the last paragraph of Chapter 12, Washington and his men found three qualities to change their fate. List all three of those qualities and elaborate on one, as well as an example from the book to demonstrate it.

**Chapter 13 – The Speckled Monster**

 1. Why is “The Speckled Monster” the title of this chapter?

 2. How does Sam feel about Ray’s fiddle music? Be very specific.

 3. What are some of the memories of the physical conditions Sam recalls from December 31st?

 4. Sam realizes most of the soldiers he knows are leaving the war. If they

believe in the cause and they respect Hamilton and Washington, why are they leaving?

 5. What does Washington do to convince the soldiers to stay? Be very

specific and cite evidence from the text.

 6. What is the significance of the compass with the snake?

 7. Cite some of the reasons that Hamilton and Washington think the

British forces are weakening, following the Battle of Trenton.

 8. Sam writes his parents a long letter. If you were Sam’s parents, what

are some emotions the letter would bring out to you?

 9. What inoculation did Sam receive and what were some of his side

affects?

 10. Why does Maggie praise Sam and do you think he deserves the

praise?

 11. Discuss, in detail, the medallion Sam received. Explain why this was

such an emotional gift.

 12. The medallion was engraved with three words: courage, loyalty, responsibility. Which of these is most important and why? Which of these qualities best describes Sam, give reasons for your answer.