# **Intro to American & British Lit: Reading Responses**

Good writing has good ideas and good thinking. It is clear, precise, and concise. Make your answers reflect these qualities.

Do NOT summarize the story or include long quotes. I know the story well. Instead, react and respond to ideas in the story. Why are they important or interesting or worth thinking about? How do the ideas in the story connect to your life and experienceWhat questions do you have? (Not “what questions might impress the teacher?”

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| English name (optional) |  | | Date | | 2024/7/9 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 6h |
| Johnny Tremain  Chapter 3 to 4 | | How difficult was it? (0-5)  (0 = easy …5 = impossible to understand) | | | 4 |
| How interesting was it? (0-5)  (0 = so boring … 5 = loved it) | | | 3 |
| New vocabulary/language | | | | | |
| **10+ Words I needed to look up** (with brief English definition) | | | | **10+ Words I guessed the meaning of** (with your guess) | |
| **jerked :** preserved by cutting into pieces, drying, and curing  **gimlet-eyed :** having a piercing or penetrating gaze  **felon** : a painful, often swollen, pus-filled sore on the finger or toe, caused by a bacterial infection  **Regal :** Having an appearance or manner of a king or queen; majestic or dignified.  **Tipsy :** Intoxicated or slightly drunk.  **ledgers :** large books or accounts in which financial transactions are recorded  **Cherubic :** resembling an angelic child, especially in being plump and innocent-looking. **mouldy :** covered with or containing mold; old-fashioned or stale**.**  **Whig :** A member of a political party in Great Britain in the 17th and 18th centuries that favored civil and political liberties and the parliamentary system.  **Spinet :** A small, rectangular musical instrument similar to a harpsichord or piano, typically having one set of strings and a keyboard.  **Indenture :** A legal document that formalizes a contract of employment, especially for apprentices or servants, detailing the terms and conditions of their service. | | | | **maimed :** injured  **broadside :** printed sheet  **rakish :** stylishly unconventional  **reigning :** dominant  **Mantua-makers :** Tailors  **wattles :** flaps  **staves :** wooden planks  **comical :** funny  **graving :** carving  **kerchoo :** sneeze  **goggle-eyed :** wide-eyed  **hurly-burly :** commotion  **beadle :** officer  **lithe :** flexible | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| I have too much to say. I found the most exciting part of this novel is the changes in Johnny Tremain's life, his psychology, frustrations, abilities, etc. Therefore, all the ideas and questions I listed are centered around this.   1. I think that when a person's fantasy does not stop, his suffering is not over. When Johnny Tremain fantasized about becoming a silversmith and marrying Cilla, he lost a skillful hand. When he fantasized about becoming a member of the Lyte family, he was framed and imprisoned by Mr. Lyte. Why is this so? Is it just the plot arrangement of the novel? Does Johnny Tremain's story tell us to abandon illusions and prepare for struggle? I guess after winning the case, Johnny Tremain's life will be reborn and unfold vigorously. 2. I think Johnny Tremain's pride and self-esteem are evident throughout the film, which seems to come from his self-perceived hidden background (which must be very mysterious and chosen for a young boy), his talent as a silversmith (learning ability), and his literacy and math abilities that are far superior to those around him. Is the plot constantly breaking down these prides, and if so, what are they breaking down, and what are the precious ones that are being held on to? 3. Johnny Tremain squandered the money given to him by Mr. Hancock. What kind of character did this plot shape Johnny Tremain? He seemed to regret it and wished Rab was there to stop him (or maybe I overlooked some causes and consequences) | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| 1. Johnny Tremain has experienced various people and events since his hand was cut off. His psychological changes are extremely subtle and complex. I am a little confused about the part where Ms. Lapham warned Johnny Tremain not to associate with her daughter. Do Cilla and Isannah have their own opinions? In addition, is Johnny Tremain's claim that he does not like the two girls a reflection of his self-esteem? 2. Rab seemed to have anticipated (or not found it strange) that Johnny Tremain was framed as a thief. Was this a plot he had set up to recruit members to the organization? Or was he just taking advantage of the situation to make Johnny Tremain realize the reality (which obviously worked)? | | | | | |
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