# **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 | | 2024/7/11 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 4.5h |
| Johnny Tremain  Chapter 5 to 6 | | 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) | |
| **Seditious** : Inciting or causing people to rebel against the authority of a state or government.  **Equitation** : The art or practice of horse riding.  **Genteel** : Refined in manner or style; well-bred; polite.  **Silsbee** : A surname, possibly referring to a family from Lexington, known for certain traits or characteristics.  **Gumption** : Initiative and resourcefulness; common sense or the ability to act cleverly and promptly.  **nonchalant** : showing a relaxed lack of concern or enthusiasm  **Placard** : A notice or poster, typically one that is prominently displayed.  **divulge :** to make known (something, such as information) to another person  **Truckle** : A small bed on wheels, used especially in the past for children or servants, which could be rolled under a larger bed when not in use.  **Countersign** : A secret word or phrase used to identify members of a group or to confirm authenticity.  **Hurrah** : A loud shout of approval, encouragement, or joy. | | | | **Sillabubs** : A type of drink  **Wharf-rat** : Dock-dweller  **Hippogriffs** : mythical creatures  **crystalline** : clear  **fatuous** : self-satisfied  **atrophying** : wasting away  **Homeric** : Heroic  **Dunning** : Collecting  **chisel** : carve  **consignees** : people who are responsible for delivering goods  **Enchantment** : Spell | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| 1. I think Johnny Tremain clearly realized that he was involved in a revolutionary movement. From reading newspapers, communicating with Rab and the shop owner, and listening to the opinions of the opposition during the period of time when he was working in the printing shop and learning horse riding, he quickly became a Whig, and later participated in the actions of the Sons of Liberty. I think Johnny Tremain's change of mentality is worth discussing. He was sometimes enthusiastic, but also afraid (when he heard the fighting outside during the rally). 2. I think the reasons why Johnny Tremain became a Whig are also worth discussing, including Rab's company, Mr. Lyte as a negative example, and his own learning and ideological progress. I think Johnny Tremain should have taken the initiative to join, because from his past experience, I did not see any reason for him to join because of his livelihood or any national sentiment, which is very different from the Chinese Revolution I am familiar with. 3. I noticed that the novel is telling the story of the famous "Boston Tea Party", which was the fuse of the War of Independence. But the "Sons of Liberty" organization in the novel seems to be limited to Boston. So how did this movement spread across the United States, and as a local organization, did the "Sons of Liberty" consider the upcoming retaliation from Britain? | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| 1. I noticed that the captain also helped Mr. Lyte to persecute Johnny, which made me think, are the Tory party members they represent and the Whig party members disagreeing only because of whether they support British rule? Is it related to other factors (such as some factors involving the American mainland, including class confrontation, etc.) I think the Whig party members are more of a group persecuted by the British. 2. What is the connection between the Whigs and the Sons of Liberty? From what I read in the book, it seems that the Whigs may have proposed motions in Parliament to protest and oppose British policies, while the Sons of Liberty organized protests in the streets and communities. Together, they promoted the development of the American independence movement, is that right? | | | | | |
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