# **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 | | 2024/7/15 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 13h |
| Johnny Tremain  Chapter 7 to 12 | | 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) | | | 4 |
| New vocabulary/language | | | | | |
| **10+ Words I needed to look up** (with brief English definition) | | | | **10+ Words I guessed the meaning of** (with your guess) | |
| **Commandeer** : To take or use something, especially without permission, especially for military purposes.  **Candelabra** : A pair or set of candle holders, typically ornate and designed to hold multiple candles.  **rigmarole** : A lengthy and complicated or confusing procedure.  **dispatch** : the act of sending someone or something to a destination or for a purpose  **Sedition** : Conduct or speech inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch.  **florid** : having a red or flushed complexion  **Punctilious** : Careful about paying attention to even small details; meticulous.  **billeted** : assigned to live in a particular place, typically as part of a military arrangement  **betrothed** : engaged to be married  **wharf** : a platform built out from the shore into the water and supported by piles, used to facilitate the loading and unloading of ships.\*\*  **disconsolately** : in a sad or unhappy manner, without comfort or consolation | | | | **quintals** : large quantities  **unendurable** : unbearable  **curry-combs** : grooming tools  **scepter** : royal staff  **Riffraff** : Scum  **fripperies** : trinkets  **molting** : shedding  **Rigmarole** : Confusing or meaningless talk  **proverbial** : well-known  **bilious** : ill-tempered  **noncombatants** : people who do not fight in wars | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| 1. Looking through the whole book, I found that it is interwoven with two narrative lines. One is Johnny's growth line: a conceited and proud silversmith apprentice lost his identity after an accidental injury, forcing him to re-examine his life and future. In the process of finding a new direction, he integrated into the revolution and experienced inner struggles and growth in the friendship with his new friend Rabbi. Finally, he found a new identity. The other narrative line is the historical background of the American War of Independence (social unrest in Boston during the revolutionary period). From historical events such as the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington and Concord, it shows the determination and spirit of sacrifice of the American people in this period to fight for freedom. I think the writing method of interweaving these two narrative lines is particularly interesting, integrating personal growth with historical progress. What is the purpose of the author writing in this way, and what kind of picture does he want to depict? 2. As I said last time, the conflict between the two parties may be class-based, such as the scene where James Otis gave his speech about natural rights and global freedom, and Johnny's friendship with the colonel (the colonel was only equal to him in horsemanship). These all have sharp class conflicts and tensions. Is this true? | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| 1. Why did the British provide assistance and allow speeches and rallies after the army blockaded Boston? Did they hope to win the hearts of the people in Boston by showing their magnanimity? This approach does not seem to solve the fundamental problem. Can it ultimately resolve the conflict? 2. Dove obviously had a hard time in the British army, so why did she make pro-British remarks? Was it her pride or was she just going against Johnny? Dove also participated in the Boston Tea Party. I don't quite understand this. 3. What is Johnny's purpose in disguising himself as a British soldier and leaving the city? Is he trying to pass on information about the British army's movements or find Rab, or both? I don't quite understand this. | | | | | |
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