# **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? | | | 7h |
| Johnny Tremain  Chapter 1 to 3 | | 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) | |
| **Crucible :** A container in which metals or other substances are heated to a high temperature, typically for the purpose of melting or chemical purification.  **repousseing :** A metalworking technique in which designs are raised from the reverse side of the metal by hammering from the back, creating a raised design on the front**. Replica :** An exact copy or reproduction of something**.**  **Mundane :** Of or relating to the world; earthly; not spiritual or divine**.**  **slavishly :** in a way that shows extreme or excessive willingness to serve or obey someone  **Coopering :** The craft or trade of making and repairing wooden barrels and casks.  **Buglike :** Resembling a bug or insect, often used to describe something small and squat with many legs or part**s.**  **Nonchalantly :** In a casual, indifferent, or unconcerned manner.  **gimlet-eyed :** having a piercing or sharp gaze  **Esquire :** A title of respect placed after a man's name, often used for lawyers or gentlemen, and sometimes abbreviated as "Esq."  **Gallows :** A structure used for hanging people as a form of execution | | | | **flaccid :** limp  **apoplectic :** looking like they are about to faint or have a stroke  **venerable :** respected due to age  **Gadroon :** Ornamental edge  **Flagon :** Large container for holding liquid  **Frilly :** Decorative  **unexpired :** not yet ended  **Mundane :** Earthly  **Tipsy :** Drunk-like  **maimed :** injured  **Annealing :** Heating  **Buglike :** Insect-shaped  **Nonchalantly :** Carelessly | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| 1. Apprenticeships are not only found in Lapham's silversmith shop, but also in printing shops or trading companies. I think this system is universal in some places, and it also varies depending on the master the apprentice follows (for example, Mr. Lapham is a master I think is relatively good). So for young people like Rab Hopkin and the protagonist Johnny Tremain, how to find an apprenticeship job that suits them may be a question worth discussing, because several years of time means there are not many opportunities for trial and error (this is also the problem Johnny Tremain faces in the story).   In addition, I think this is very similar to looking for a mentor in a university to do scientific research.And I hope to refer to some experience from Johnny Tremain's story hahaha.   1. I don't know if this is a question (it may be that I overlooked some details so I think it can be discussed): Johnny Tremain's outstanding performance in the silversmith job at the beginning was due to his talent or because of his early education from his mother (such as being able to read, cultivating learning ability, and cultivating diligence), because this is particularly obvious compared with his companion Dove. If it is the latter, then I think the silversmith job is not the only choice for Johnny Tremain, and there are also traces that Johnny Tremain later sought another way out after his hand was burned. | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| 1. I didn't quite understand the breakfast scene at the beginning of the novel. Even though it didn't seem to affect the subsequent plot, did Mr. Lapham deliberately let Johnny Tremain read that passage from the Bible to tell him not to be too proud? 2. Why did Mr. John Hancock give money to Johnny Tremain? Was it because he felt sorry that Johnny Tremain could not be hired because of his hand injury? 3. Mr. Lafayette's decision not to work on Sundays was in accordance with religion and law, but did all industries and businesses in the United States during this period have similar rules? I think the religious atmosphere during this period was obviously not as strong as in the previous book. | | | | | |
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