***Lyddie***

***Chapter 5- Going Home***

[Lyddie](https://www.enotes.com/topics/lyddie?en_action=hh_answer_body_click&en_label=%2Fhomework-help%2Fwhat-happened-chapter-5-lyddie-66969%23answer-719868&en_category=internal_campaign) has been working hard at Cutler's tavern, and I mean really hard.  Mrs. Cutler is a serious task master, and Lyddie can barely catch a moment to herself.  Fortunately, Lyddie is a hard worker, and that earns her the respect and friendship of Triphena.  That's helpful to Lyddie in Chapter Five, because in this chapter Mrs. Cutler decided to go to Boston to sell the maple sugar and visit some family.  Because of the reduced workload (Mrs. Cutler isn't there anymore), Triphena encourages Lyddie to go visit her family as well.

Lyddie first goes to see Charlie at the mill, but she is surprised that she can't find him there.  The reason is that Charlie is still in school, which upsets Lyddie.  She's being worked to the ground, and Charlie's family is allowing him to go to school. Lyddie is disgusted at the situation and slightly worried that Charlie will forget his real family.

The next place that Lyddie decides to visit is their former farm.  To her surprise she finds a runaway slave in the house.  This is a new experience for Lyddie for two reasons.  One, she has never seen a runaway slave before and thoughts of the reward money do creep into her head.  Two, Lyddie has never seen a black man before.

I see that I answered this back in 2009, but I can expand upon it further after reading the chapter yet again. Lyddie is longing to visit home again to check on her brother, Charlie, after being sent to work at Cutler’s Tavern under the watchful eye of Mistress Cutler. One day, Mistress Cutler decides to go into Boston in order to sell her recent batch of maple sugar, and Triphena suggests that Lyddie take advantage of the situation.

Sure enough, Lyddie leaves the tavern and tries to visit Charlie at Baker’s Mill. When Lyddie arrives, she finds out that Charlie is at school instead of at the mill. Lyddie is disgusted by Charlie’s “new family” and feels that he might forget his real one. With these thoughts in mind, Lyddie heads back to her family’s old farm. A surprise awaits her when she peeks in through the window: a “shadowy form” sitting quietly at the fireplace, a “shadowy form” that is not her mother. Lyddie is finally face to face with a black man, the first black man that she has ever seen in her life.

(Keep in mind that right before she left, in chapter 4, Lyddie talks with her friends at the tavern about the large sums given to those who turn in runaway slaves.) We won’t find out until Chapter 6 that this particular runway slave’s name is Ezekial Abernathy.

Lyddie, of course, has been sent to Cutler’s Tavern and Charlie has been sent to Baker’s Mill.  Lyddie takes advantage of Mistress Cutler’s absence (as she has gone to Massachusetts to sell some maple sugar) to take a “vacation” in order to see her family.  When Lyddie stops at Baker’s Mill to find Charlie, she finds out that Charlie is not there because he is still in school.  Lyddie is disturbed by this and begins to hate the family that has been taking care of Charlie.  Lyddie finally arrives at the farm and is surprised to find a black man staying there.

A fortnight passed and it was now the second week of April.  Lyddie couldn't believe that two weeks had already passed. Mistress Cutler decided she had made enough molded sugar that she was going to take it to Boston to sell.  When the mistress left, Triphena helped convince Lyddie that she should go home for a little vacation and to check on her cabin even though they were told they weren't supposed to leave.



Lyddie left the next morning.  She stopped at Baker's Mill on her way to visit Charlie.  However, Mrs. Baker alluded to the fact that Charlie was not there because he was at school.  Lyddie knew Mrs. Baker had not said he was at school outright because she knew Lyddie would be jealous.  Lyddie was jealous that her brother was able to go to school. Lyddie was worried she might embarass him by staying and waiting for him.  So, even though the Baker's offered her a chance to stay for dinner and wait, Lyddie decided to keep walking towards their cabin.



Finally, Lyddie made it home to her cabin.  But, as she entered the cabin she saw a dark, shadowy figure standing in the dim  light.  Lyddie saw in the dim light that his face and hands were very dark.  Only his eyes shone.  She realized quickly she was staring at a black man!

* Triphena tells Lyddie to take a vacation while the mistress is away so Lyddie decides to go to her cabin.
* She stops to see Charlie, but he is at school.
* Lyddie refuses to stay for dinner and hurries to the cabin. This is typical of her independent nature.
* Lyddie wonders if Charlie feels the Phinneys are his new family.
* There is a black man in Lyddie’s cabin.
* The mistress went to Boston, so Lyddie can take a vacation.
* She plans to bury her money from the calf in her cabin.
* She feels very disappointed.
* She also feels protective of Charlie and jealous of his relationship with his new family.