

I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The American Revolution, 1776



CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND PERSONAL RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the commander of the American army? How does Nate's uncle, Uriah Storch, feel about him, and why?

2. Who hits Storch on the head with a stick? How does it happen? What does Nate do to help keep the person from getting in trouble, and why?

3. What gives Nate the idea to go to sea? How does he plan to get there?

4. After the *Valerie* leaves the harbor, Nate spots two ships. What makes these ships different from the regular sailing ships he's seen? How does he figure out what these ships are?

5. What does Paul tell Nate about how the British treated the people of Boston? How did this inspire the American soldiers in the militia he'd joined to take action?

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND PERSONAL RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

6. Why does Captain Marsh have doubts about hiring Nate? How does Nate prove him wrong?

7. Why is Brooklyn important to the Americans? What will happen if the British take it?

8. What does Nate notice about the Hessian soldier in the ditch, after the shell explodes above them? Why can't he turn away?

9. What plan does Nate come up with to get past the Hessians and back to Captain Marsh and the Connecticut 5th? How did he come up with this plan?

10. What circumstances lead to Nate's return to Norwalk before the war is over? Why is his return important to Eliza and Theo?

Name: _____

I Survived The American Revolution, 1776

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND PERSONAL RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

PERSONAL-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT: Read the question below. Write your response, or jot down notes and have a conversation with your classmates or *I Survived* book-club friends to share your thoughts.

Eleven-year-old Nate is supposed to be just a camp helper during the war, but he finds himself picking up Samuel's musket and fighting for his life and the lives of his fellow soldiers. How do you feel about this turn of events? What do you think you would do in Nate's situation, and why?

ANSWERS

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. The commander of the American army is General George Washington. Storch hates Washington because he and his friend are on England's side—they are not rooting for the Americans to win the war.
2. Theo accidentally hits Storch on the head with a stick he is pretending is a pirate's sword. He's spinning around with it when he stumbles and lets go, and the stick hits Storch on the back of the head. Nate takes the blame for Theo so that Storch won't sell Theo, who is a slave.
3. Nate remembers the stories his father told him about the pirate Slash O'Shea, who ran away from an orphanage at age 10 and got a job on a ship. He plans to go to Norwalk Harbor and catch a boat to New York City, which has one of the busiest harbors in the colonies with ships departing for places all over the world. In New York City, he plans to talk a captain into hiring him.
4. Nate notices that these ships are much bigger than regular sailing ships. They have twelve sails each, and square openings on their sides through which he can see cannon muzzles. When he sees the English flags on their masts, he realizes they are British warships.
5. Paul tells Nate that the people of Boston were like prisoners. The British moved into any house they wanted, there wasn't enough food, and the shops were all shut down. The American soldiers in the militia felt they had to do something to get the British out.
6. Captain Marsh thinks that Nate is too young, saying, "This is the army, not a nursery." But Nate works hard in tough conditions, helping to dig a trench in the roasting sun, and the captain says, "Good work, son."
7. Captain Marsh thinks that Nate is too young, saying, "This is the army, not a nursery." But Nate works hard in tough conditions, helping to dig a trench in the roasting sun, and the captain says, "Good work, son."
8. Nate notices that the soldier's leg is twisted in a way it shouldn't be, and that his eyes are open but unblinking—the soldier is dead. Nate can't turn away because he also notices that the soldier is very young, and now he looks like someone's son or brother, not like a bloodthirsty killer.
9. Nate takes the Hessian's green coat, helmet, musket, and bayonet. He remembers a story his father told him about the pirate Slash O'Shea buying a man's clothes right off him and putting them on to escape a policeman.
10. Nate learns that Storch has died and that he is to inherit all of Storch's assets, so he returns to Norwalk. His return is important to Eliza and Theo because it he can now give them their freedom papers.

PERSONAL-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT:

Answers will vary.