

I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The American Revolution, 1776



CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Nate has a special relationship with Paul, and also with Eliza. Why do you think this is? What circumstances led to Nate being close with these two people?

2. Why is Eliza so worried about Storch hearing Theo's giggles? What does she fear will happen?

3. Nate thinks about Slash O'Shea stories several times in the book. Why are these stories so important to him?

4. What is the significance of Paul seeing Nate as Nate is trying to get out of New York City? How does Paul change the course of Nate's life?

5. In what ways do the men of the Connecticut 5th take care of Nate? How do they make him part of their army family?

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

6. Nate's favorite time of the day is when the men sit by the campfire. Why do you think this is? What is special about this time of the day?

7. Nate has already had smallpox and can't get it again. But it is still brave of him to help James when James falls ill with the disease. In what ways is Nate brave in this instance? Why might it be difficult for Nate to help James?

8. In singing "Yankee Doodle Dandy," the Americans take a British insult and turn it into a fight song. Why did they do this? What is powerful about this?

9. Several different things happen that lead to 11-year-old Nate being on the battlefield. What are they? What is the sequence of events that leads to him firing a musket?

10. When Nate is dressed like a Hessian, how does Slash O'Shea help him? What does thinking about Slash do for Nate?

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT: Answer the questions on the organizer below to help you write a two-paragraph essay with a concluding statement about how you think the main character of *I Survived the American Revolution* changed from the beginning of the book to the end. Then use your answers to write your short essay.

TWO-PARAGRAPH ESSAY ORGANIZER FOR *I SURVIVED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, 1776*

First, answer the questions below to brainstorm ideas for your first paragraph, which will be your introduction:

Who or what is the book about?

How does this person change from the beginning of the story to the end?

Next, answer the questions below to help you choose a piece of evidence and a concluding statement for your second paragraph:

What piece of evidence or example can you provide from the book that shows how the main character changed from the beginning of the story to the end?

Why do you think the author wanted to tell you this story about this character? What is the message?

Now, write your essay on the back of this page or on a computer using your answers above.

ANSWERS

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Nate's mother died when he was little, and his father, a ship captain, took him on voyages. Paul was part of his father's crew, and Paul was like a brother to Nate, especially after Nate's father was swept overboard during a storm. Eliza, Uncle Storch's slave, was kind to Nate when he first came to live with Storch, letting him know he wasn't alone in the world and holding his hand when he had nightmares. Both Eliza and Paul are family to Nate.
2. Eliza is worried about Theo's giggles because she doesn't want to annoy Storch, who doesn't like Theo. Storch recently sold Eliza's husband, George, and Eliza, who misses him terribly, doesn't want to give Storch an excuse to sell her son.
3. Slash O'Shea stories are important to Nate because Slash, like Nate, was a boy who had once been by himself and had to survive by his wits. Nate sees himself in Slash. The stories are also important to Nate because his father told them to him.
4. When Paul finds Nate, Nate is trying to leave but he's not sure where to go or what to do. Paul tells Nate about the Declaration of Independence, and the American colonies banding together to form a new country. He asks Nate if he wants to join the fight as a camp helper, and Nate says yes, which leads to Nate fighting in the war.
5. The men of the Connecticut 5th look out for Nate. Paul hardly lets Nate out of his sight; James leaves useful gifts for Nate like wool socks, a tin canteen, and a new shirt; Martin cleans and bandages Nate's hands and patches his shoes. They make him feel like family by taking care of him as they would a younger brother or son.
6. At the end of the day, the men sit by the campfire to relax. They sing songs, tell stories, offer toasts, and compare scars. Nate probably likes this part of the day, after marching and musket practice are done, because it's fun, and they can all take a break from preparing for the war.
7. Nate shows bravery in helping James by going inside the tent to see James, even though James is covered in horrible blisters and is hard to look at. Also, Nate's mother died of smallpox, which might make it painful for Nate to interact with James, but he does it anyway.
8. The Americans take an insulting term that the British came up with for them, and they make it their own. In doing so, they take the power of the insult away from the British.
9. First, Nate is a camp helper for the Connecticut 5th, and Captain Marsh tells Nate that he'll be staying in the fort because he's not a soldier. Then, when the company is ordered to guard Gowanus Heights and 22 soldiers are too sick to march, the captain asks Nate to march with them to help carry supplies, explaining that he'll then return to the fort. But when Samuel gets shot and the Americans come under fire in a surprise attack by the Redcoats, Nate picks up Samuel's gun and fires with the company.
10. Nate feels very nervous when he is dressed like a Hessian and trying to walk past the Redcoats. But when he thinks of Slash tipping his hat at the policemen in the story, Nate finds the courage to do the same thing, and waves at the Redcoats who wave back and let him pass.

Essay assignment: Answers will vary but the essay will most likely be about how Nate gains confidence and grows up over the course of the book, and that the author wanted to show readers a character who perseveres, or learns from difficult experiences, or always tries to do the right thing.