

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

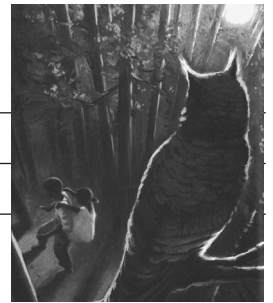
1. Why do you think Thomas is angry when Birdie scares away the squirrel on page 5? Why can't he stay angry at her?

2. Even though Thomas is terrified when he and Birdie flee into the woods, he doesn't turn back. Why do you think this is? What keeps him moving forward?

3. Why is it important to Thomas to help Henry after he sees the same look in Henry's eyes that he saw in Clem's eyes when Clem was being taken away?

4. What is Henry really saying when he tells Thomas, "You save a man's life, you're stuck with him forever," and why?

5. Summarize what Thomas learns about the war by listening to the men in the camp talk before heading to Gettysburg.



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

6. When Henry tells Thomas and Birdie about snow, Birdie is able to picture it in her imagination, but Thomas can't. What does it mean that his mind has "stopped making happy pictures" since Clem was taken?

7. How do you interpret Thomas's reaction when Henry invites Thomas and Birdie to come live with Mary and him in Vermont after the war? Explain your answer.

8. When Captain Campbell indicates that he and his men can't take the time to find Birdie when she goes missing, Thomas takes off, running into the woods. What does this tell you about Thomas, and about his priorities?

9. Who are the teamsters, and what does it mean to Thomas and Birdie to see them at Gettysburg?

10. At the end of the book, Thomas can picture happy things again, like being with Clem. What does this tell you about how Thomas is doing?

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT: Answer the organizer questions on the next page to help you brainstorm a two-paragraph essay with a concluding statement about two different ways in which Henry saves Thomas's life after Thomas saves Henry's life. Then use the information from your organizer to write your short essay.

Name: _____

I Survived The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863

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

TWO-PARAGRAPH ESSAY ORGANIZER FOR *I SURVIVED THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG, 1863*

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

How does Thomas save Henry's life? What does Henry do to thank him on page 24?

Then, choose two pieces of evidence for your second paragraph to explain how Henry goes on to save Thomas:

1. _____

2. _____

Next, answer the question below to help you write a concluding statement for the end of your second paragraph, explaining why Henry does these things.

What does Henry say to Thomas on page 27 to explain how he feels about Thomas?

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

ANSWERS

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Thomas is angry at first because he is hunting the squirrel for dinner—food on the plantation is scarce, and he and Birdie are hungry—and Birdie knows not to disturb him when he's hunting. But he can't stay angry at his sister because he loves her, and just seeing her turns his heart to mush.
2. Thomas knows that terrible things await Birdie and him if they return to Mr. Knox's farm, and he has decided that they have to try to find the freedom that Clem told him about.
3. Thomas probably feels terrible about not being able to help Clem, and he might see helping Henry as a way to make up for that.
4. Henry is saying that he wants to look after Thomas (and Birdie) for the rest of his life. This is his way of thanking Thomas for saving him.
5. Thomas learns that slavery has been illegal in the North for years, and that President Lincoln wants to end slavery everywhere in the U.S. He also learns that many people in the South don't care what the president wants, and that 11 Southern states are planning to break away from the U.S. to start their own country.
6. Clem being taken away was so devastating for Thomas that he is having a difficult time thinking about or picturing beautiful or happy things.
7. At first, Thomas almost can't process what Henry is saying, probably because the idea seems impossible to him, and his mind fills with questions. But then he smiles—the idea is sinking in and he likes it, even if he's too stunned to answer.
8. Thomas loves Birdie very much, and she is his number-one priority, above all else. Thomas would do anything for her, including putting himself in harm's way.
9. The teamsters are Black men paid by the Union Army to run supplies from camp to camp. Birdie is excited to see men who look like Thomas and her, and Thomas is excited to see Black men who are free and getting paid for their work for the Union.
10. The fact that Thomas can picture happy things shows that he is starting to process all that he has been through, and that he is finally able to feel hope for his future.

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT: Answers will vary but the evidence should include two of the following: Henry brought Thomas and Birdie to the Union Army camp; Henry helps save Thomas and Birdie after the rebels capture them; Henry writes to Mary about Thomas and Birdie to make sure they will have a life waiting for them in Vermont.