

Selection Review #1

Johnny Tremain

Chapters I and II

- 1. Describe Johnny Tremain. What is his relationship with the other members of the Lapham household?** Johnny is fourteen. He is responsible, hard working, intelligent, and proud. He is an orphan. His mother apprenticed him to Mr. Lapham before she died. Johnny reads well and is better at silverwork than the other apprentices, Dove and Dusty. He treats them in a cocky, bossy way. He even tells his master and Mrs. Lapham what to do. He enjoys bossing his master's daughters and teasing Cilla and Isannah, the two youngest. He plans to become a great silversmith and marry Cilla. Dove hates Johnny and resents his bossiness. However, others in the household admire him. They are grateful for his hard work and his quick mind, even though he is too proud. Cilla and Isannah like to tease Johnny, but they are really very fond of him.
- 2. Describe Mr. Lapham. What does he have Johnny read from the Bible, and why?** Mr. Lapham is elderly, gentle, and pious. He no longer cares much about the running of his silversmith shop, and lets Johnny take charge of most things. He does not just want to teach the boys to become silversmiths, but also to become good men. Mr. Lapham has Johnny read Bible verses about being humble because Johnny is so proud. Mr. Lapham wants him to see his talent as a gift from God, and to be more considerate in the way he treats the other boys.
- 3. Give specific examples of Johnny's rude treatment of others.** Johnny's behavior is rude and cocky on many occasions. He calls Dove names and orders him and Dusty around as if he were the master. He rudely orders Dove to melt down the spoon he made wrong. He calls Madge "my girl" even though she is really his mistress. He orders Mr. Hancock's black servant around. He tells Mr. Hancock that Mr. Lapham can fill the order, rather than letting the master silversmith speak for himself.
- 4. How is Johnny different from most working boys? What secret does he reveal to Cilla in the middle of the night?** Johnny can read well, and most working boys either read poorly or not at all. Also, he has three names, while most working boys only have two. Johnny tells Cilla that his middle name is Lyte, and that he believes he is related to the rich Merchant Lyte. He shows her a silver cup his mother gave him that is engraved with the Lyte crest and motto.
- 5. Why does Johnny go to see Paul Revere? What happens during this visit?** Johnny goes to Mr. Revere for advice about the silver basin. Mr. Revere tells Johnny how to fix the basin. He also offers to take him as an apprentice, buying his time from Mr. Lapham, but Johnny refuses.

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- 6. Why does Johnny have to cast the handles for the basin on Sunday? Describe the accident that occurs.** Johnny is unable to finish the handles on Saturday because Dove brings him poor quality charcoal when it is already late. Mr. Lapham hears the boys quarreling and announces that they are to stop work for the Sabbath at sundown. Mrs. Lapham then suggests that Johnny secretly cast the handles Sunday afternoon while Mr. Lapham is at church. However, Dove gives him a cracked crucible so the silver runs out all over the top of the furnace. Johnny slips on the wax he left on the floor and accidentally puts his hand into the melted silver.
- 7. What happens to Johnny's hand? How does the accident change his life and his position at the shop?** Mrs. Lapham sends for an old woman to treat the burn so that no one will know they were working on the Sabbath. The hand heals in a curved position, and the thumb and first finger grow together. Johnny cannot use it for silver work or any other skilled craft. Instead of being the leader, he is only useful for menial chores. Dove mocks him, and Mrs. Lapham wants to get rid of him. Only Mr. Lapham is kind to him, promising to care for him and encouraging him to look for a trade. Johnny becomes angry and sullen. He hates to be pitied and is furious when he learns that Dove deliberately gave him the cracked crucible.

Selection Review #2

Johnny Tremain

Chapters III and IV

- 1. Describe Johnny's early attempts to find work. Why do you think he is not successful? What is different about his experience at the *Boston Observer* office?** Johnny's early attempts to find work do not go well, partly because he really only wants to be a master craftsman. He takes his cocky, bitter attitude with him everywhere. He keeps his crippled hand hidden until he has to show it, so the masters feel that he is not being honest and sincere. In the *Boston Observer* office Johnny meets Rab, a young man who is a good listener and asks intelligent questions. Rab does not reject Johnny's burned hand. He treats Johnny without pity, as an equal, and shares food with him. Johnny feels he has found a true friend and pours out his whole story to Rab.
- 2. Tell about Johnny's visit to Mr. Hancock. What does he gain from it? What positive and negative sides of Johnny's character do we see in this situation?** Johnny goes to Mr. Hancock hoping for a job as a cabin boy. His ability to read and do math impresses Mr. Hancock. However, when Mr. Hancock sees that Johnny cannot write because of his bad hand, he sends him away. Mr. Hancock then sends Johnny a purse full of silver coins. Johnny has a large, expensive meal at a fine restaurant, then buys a pair of shoes and gifts for Cilla and Isannah with the money left over. Johnny is foolish to spend most of his money on one fancy meal. Still, buying shoes that he needs is sensible. His gifts for Cilla and Isannah show his generous heart.
- 3. What goes wrong when Johnny gives his gifts to Cilla and Isannah? Why does he decide to go to Merchant Lyte? Describe Lyte's attitude toward Johnny, and explain why Johnny is so elated after their first meeting.** Cilla and Isannah are very pleased with their gifts. However, when Johnny tries to pick up Isannah with his burned hand, she slaps it away and begins to scream. Johnny takes this reaction to mean that everyone really hates him. He cries all night, then decides that his only choice is to go to Merchant Lyte. When Johnny tells Merchant Lyte about their relationship, at first Lyte makes fun of him and wants to send him away. However, he changes his attitude when he hears about the cup Johnny's mother gave him. When he tells Johnny to come to his house with the cup, Johnny expects a warm welcome.

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- 4. What happens when Johnny goes to Merchant Lyte's house? What facts seem to suggest that Johnny could be guilty of stealing the cup?** When Johnny takes his cup to the Lyte house, Merchant Lyte says that an identical cup was stolen from him during the summer. He accuses Johnny of stealing the cup and has him put in jail. Several facts seem to fit this accusation. Johnny's indenture contract has only the name "Johnny Tremain" on it, not "Jonathan Lyte Tremain," which he says is his real name. None of the adults at the Lapham household ever knew that Johnny had a silver cup. Also, Johnny recently showed up with new shoes and expensive gifts, even though he had no job and no money that anyone knew of.
- 5. Who is Mr. Tweedie? Why does he hate Johnny? How does he take his revenge?** Mr. Tweedie is the silversmith Mrs. Lapham is trying to persuade to work in Mr. Lapham's shop and marry one of her daughters. He hates Johnny because Johnny made fun of him and called him a squeak-pig. He tries to make sure Mrs. Lapham does not let Cilla testify to Johnny's innocence.
- 6. What is dishonest about Merchant Lyte's behavior? How do Rab, Josiah Quincy, and Cilla help Johnny to show that he is not guilty of the theft?** Merchant Lyte tries to decide the outcome of Johnny's hearing ahead of time by placing a large order with the Laphams and pressuring Mrs. Lapham not to let Cilla testify for Johnny. However, Rab prevents this plan from succeeding. He arranges for Josiah Quincy, a lawyer he knows, to defend Johnny free of charge. He also manages to bring Cilla to court to testify. Johnny showed Cilla his cup before Mr. Lyte's cup was stolen, so Cilla's testimony proves that there is no reason to think that Johnny took Mr. Lyte's cup.

Selection Review #3

Johnny Tremain

Chapters V and VI

1. **Why does Johnny return to Mr. Lyte's counting house? What is the result?** Johnny goes to Mr. Lyte's counting house to try to sell him his silver cup. Mr. Lyte snatches the cup and claims that Johnny has confessed to stealing it and is voluntarily returning it. Mr. Lyte tries to send Johnny on a one-way trip to Guadalupe on one of his ships. Johnny escapes, but does not recover his cup.
2. **Describe Johnny's new job. What are the duties? What are the benefits? What does Johnny have to learn?** Johnny delivers the *Boston Observer* on horseback to subscribers in Boston and the surrounding area each week from Thursday through Saturday. In return, Johnny has a place to stay and food to eat. He also can do other work to earn money the first few days of the week. He has the use of Goblin, a very timid, easily spooked horse that Rab bought, for these errands. However, Johnny first has to learn to ride. This is not easy with a horse like Goblin, especially since Rab only gives Johnny one riding lesson. Still, learning to ride Goblin teaches Johnny to be more patient and gentle. He also has to learn to keep trying even when he falls off. In addition, riding Goblin forces Johnny to use his crippled hand and keep it exercised. At the *Observer*, Johnny sleeps in the loft with Rab. He uses his free time to read in Mr. Lorne's library. He enjoys the warm, loving family life at the Lornes', and he becomes interested in politics.
3. **Contrast Rab and Johnny's personalities. How does Johnny change under Rab's influence?** Rab is steady, self-controlled, and self-confident. He keeps to himself, yet is friendly and warm. Johnny, on the other hand, is easily influenced by people and events, loses his temper, and is quick to criticize or ridicule those who irritate him. Johnny becomes more self-controlled and steady under Rab's influence. He has always been confident, but he is now more humble and does not lord his abilities or position over others. He was very discouraged when he met Rab, and has blossomed under Rab's confidence in his abilities.
4. **Where does Johnny see Cilla? How do Johnny's feelings toward Cilla change over the next few months?** Johnny first sees Cilla at the town pump one afternoon. He is very glad to see her. He promises to meet her there every Thursday and Sunday afternoon. However, Johnny does not keep his promise. He is caught up in the excitement of the political activities at the *Observer* and often forgets about Cilla. He is also both attracted and repelled by Miss Lavinia Lyte. Johnny feels that his new life is more interesting than the old one, and that Cilla has no part in it.

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- 5. What is the colonists' primary grievance against England? How do the tea ships represent this? What do the colonists really want the Governor to do about the ships?** The colonists' main grievance is that the British tax them although they have no representatives in the government. England calls off most of the taxes, but leaves one small tax on tea. This does not satisfy the colonists. When ships carrying British tea reach Boston, they refuse to let the tea be unloaded or sold. They ask the Governor to send the ships back to England with the tea, but they really want them to stay. They want an excuse to stage a big protest against the British policies.
- 6. Describe the colonists' plans for the tea protest. Why is Johnny afraid he will not be able to take part? How does he practice ahead of time?** The colonists plan to have a number of men and boys in disguise open the chests of tea and throw it all into the harbor. They insist that the participants must not steal even a teaspoon of tea during the protest. Johnny is afraid he will not be able to take part because it is hard for him to chop open wooden chests with his left hand. However, Rab suggests that Johnny take every possible opportunity to practice by chopping wood for the Lornes and for the Afric Queen, a nearby restaurant. On the day of the Tea Party, he takes part with enthusiasm.

Selection Review #4

Johnny Tremain

Chapters VII and VIII

1. **How does the punishment for the Boston Tea Party affect the colonists? What is ironic about their reaction?** England punishes Boston for the Tea Party by closing the port. The colonists are required to pay for the tea. This heavy punishment causes hardship for all the citizens of Boston. It is intended to discourage the colonists' rebellious ways. Ironically, however, it instead makes more people decide to fight for freedom. Also, the other colonies join with Boston in wanting to be free from British rule.
2. **What is Rab's main concern? What trouble does this cause?** Rab desperately wants a decent gun with which to fight the British. When he carelessly touches a British musket, a soldier knocks him unconscious. Later, he plans to buy a musket from a farmer who deals in stolen British weapons. The British tar and feather the farmer, but release Rab, saying he is just a boy.
3. **How is Johnny helping the rebel cause? How does he keep Goblin from being taken by the British soldiers?** Johnny helps the rebel cause by carrying letters for the British. In doing this, he earns a great deal of money. He also hopes to learn information useful to the colonists. Johnny also spends time with Dove, who has become a horse boy for Colonel Smith. When Lieutenant Stranger, a British officer, wants to take Goblin for Colonel Smith, Johnny tells him Goblin is not for sale. When Stranger tries to ride Goblin, Johnny flaps a sheet and scares the horse so that he throws his rider.
4. **How have Johnny's feelings toward the Lapham family and Dove changed?** When Johnny visits the Laphams, he sees them in a kinder light. He realizes that Mrs. Lapham worked very hard to care for the family. Even Madge is more pleasant than ever before. Johnny also no longer wants to pay Dove back for his part in the accident that burned Johnny's hand. Johnny does not hate the Laphams, but he feels they are no longer a part of his life. However, when he sees how differently Isannah and Cilla are treated at the Lytes' house, he becomes angry. He tells Isannah to get dressed and behave in a way that her mother and grandfather would approve. He tells Cilla she should leave, because the people at the Lytes' are not worthy of her.

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- 5. What happens to the Lyte family? Describe Johnny and Cilla's return to the Lyte country mansion.** The Lyte family leaves Boston to stay in their country mansion in Milton. One night, Mrs. Bessie warns them that a rebel mob is coming. They flee to Boston in a panic, even though Merchant Lyte is very ill. When Johnny and Cilla return for the family silver, Johnny finds important papers in Merchant Lyte's study. A genealogy in the family Bible proves that he is Merchant Lyte's grandnephew. Cilla also offers Johnny his silver cup back. However, Johnny decides not to keep the cup or the genealogy pages. He no longer wants anything to do with the Lytes. He sees they are part of a world that is passing away.
- 6. How does Johnny's relationship with Cilla change in this section? Why does Johnny become angry with Rab?** Johnny had not been keeping his promise to meet Cilla. However, when he sees her in the printing shop, he is delighted. He realizes that she is growing up and is a pretty girl. He is jealous of Rab's attention to Cilla, and begins to make seeing her a priority. Johnny becomes angry with Rab when he learns that he has been taking Cilla out for walks and buying her sweets. He is relieved when Cilla tells him she could not marry Rab. Still, he is angry when Rab eats the apple that Cilla gave Johnny.
- 7. According to James Otis, why are the colonists fighting against England?** James Otis believes the colonists are fighting against England for the freedom of people everywhere. He says that freedom from tyranny is the God-given right of all men. He says that people in other countries, such as France and Russia, will follow the colonists' lead in fighting for freedom.

Selection Review #5

Johnny Tremain

Chapters IX and X

- 1. Tell about the patriots' spy network. Describe two instances where Johnny learns and passes on important news.** The patriots' spy system is built around the master craftsmen such as Paul Revere. These men have apprentices and workmen in their shops that report on almost anything that occurs in Boston. Then the master craftsmen report to the leaders: Sam Adams, John Hancock, Dr. Warren, and Dr. Church. One day Lydia, who works at the *Afric Queen*, gives Johnny torn-up letters found in Lieutenant Stranger's room. Johnny learns that the British plan to strengthen their defenses in a fort north of Boston. Thanks to this warning, patriot forces attack the fort. They take away its store of arms before the extra British troops arrive. Another time, Johnny and Rab offer Dove alcohol to get him drunk so that he will talk more freely. Dove reveals that the British are planning to march on Concord and Worcester in the spring.
- 2. Explain how Johnny and Lieutenant Stranger become friends. What is unusual about their friendship?** Johnny and Lt. Stranger become friends when Johnny does Dove's work one day. (Dove is too drunk to work well.) Johnny and Stranger are on opposite sides of the war, yet the lieutenant is friendly to Johnny and teaches him how to jump hurdles. However, Lt. Stranger treats Johnny as an equal only when they are riding together. When they see each other at the inn, Lt. Stranger is more conscious of his class and rank and does not spend time with Johnny.
- 3. Tell about the bargain Johnny makes with Pumpkin. What happens?** Pumpkin is a young British soldier who helps Johnny escape a whipping from the British. Pumpkin tells Johnny that he would like to desert and become a farmer. Johnny provides a disguise for Pumpkin, and Pumpkin leaves his gun for Rab to use. However, Pumpkin is caught and executed by a firing squad. Johnny is upset at Pumpkin's death and briefly wonders if he is a coward at heart.
- 4. How do the patriot leaders know that the British are going to make a move soon? What do they still need to find out?** Several clues show the patriot leaders that the British are preparing to make a move. General Gage sends out spies and hears their reports. The light infantry and grenadier companies are taken off their regular duties to prepare for something special. Colonel Smith and Lieutenant Stranger are excited. Even the ordinary foot soldiers seem busier than usual, cleaning weapons and sharpening bayonets. Also, the British transport ships prepare their landing boats. However, the patriot leaders are still missing some important information. Where will the British attack? How will they get there? Who will lead them?

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- 5. Why does Rab leave Boston? How does Johnny feel about this?** Rab leaves Boston to go to Lexington and wait for the fighting. He knows that once it begins, he will be unable to leave the city, and he desperately wants to fight. Johnny is worried that Rab will be hurt in the battle, and he is hurt that Rab does not appear sad to leave him behind. He feels Rab is deserting him. Johnny is also a little jealous because Rab will be able to fight.
- 6. What important news does Johnny learn from Dove?** Johnny learns from Dove that Colonel Smith is preparing to ride out that evening about thirty miles from Boston. He will use a sturdy fighting saddle rather than the light, showy one. Shooting and drums are expected, and the Colonel's horse will be put on and off a boat. This means that Colonel Smith will be leading the troops to Lexington and Concord. The British are expecting a battle with the minutemen.
- 7. How are the minutemen warned that the British are coming?** The minutemen are warned in three ways. Two lights are hung in the steeple of the Christ's Church, showing that the British are coming by sea. Paul Revere also rows across the river to warn the patriots on the other side. Billy Dawes slips out of the town gates, disguised as a drunken farmer, and rides a fast horse to warn the colonists.

Selection Review #6

Johnny Tremain

Chapters XI and XII

- 1. What does Dr. Warren tell Johnny about the battle at Lexington? What does Dr. Warren do to help? What does he ask Johnny to do?** Dr. Warren tells Johnny that he has received a message from Paul Revere. At Lexington, there were only seventy minutemen against seven hundred British troops. The British killed several of them and then continued to march toward Concord. Dr. Warren leaves Boston to tend to the wounded and dying. He asks Johnny to stay in Boston for a while. He is to gather information about the troops the British are sending as backup, and to find out whether the British arrest any patriot leaders.
- 2. What metaphor does Johnny use to describe the British troops leaving Boston? What metaphors does he use to describe them coming back? How does this show a change in Johnny's view of the British army?** When Johnny sees the British preparing for battle, he compares them to a huge red dragon. He wonders how the Americans can ever face this mighty army. However, when the British return to Boston, Johnny sees that they are beaten. He thinks of them now as a swarm of red ants or fireflies. They are still annoying, but not terrifying.
- 3. Tell about the Lytes' travel plans. What does Johnny learn from Lavinia?** The Lytes will return to England. Miss Lavinia will marry a British lord and have Isannah trained as an actress. Cilla and Mrs. Bessie will be in charge of the Lytes' Boston home. Lavinia tells Johnny that his mother was actually Merchant Lyte's niece. She married a French doctor. Johnny was born in France. Lavinia says her father thought his niece was dead. He did not know that she had a child.
- 4. How does Johnny arrange for Uncle Lorne's safety? What does Johnny get from the bargain?** Johnny warns Uncle Lorne that the British are arresting printers, and Lorne hides in a featherbed mattress. Later, Johnny asks Mrs. Bessie if Uncle Lorne can bring his family to live at the Lytes'. He can act as the Lytes' coachman and even continue printing. Mrs. Bessie and Cilla agree. They give Johnny Pumpkin's old uniform, so he can slip out of Boston more easily.
- 5. How does Johnny slip out of Boston? What does he learn about the battles? What problem do the patriot leaders need to solve?** Johnny dirties Pumpkin's uniform and smears blood on his face as if he had been wounded. He persuades two British soldiers to take him across the river to carry an urgent message to Earl Percy, a British officer. When Johnny reaches Charlestown, he learns that when the British arrived at Concord, they waited too long for backup troops. Hundreds of minutemen surrounded the town. When Colonel Smith finally marched his men out, minutemen shot hundreds of them from behind trees and walls. Now, the patriot leaders need to give the minutemen some military leadership to turn them into real soldiers.

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- 6. What has happened to Rab? What are his parting gifts to Johnny?** Rab was badly injured in the first volley of shots at Lexington. The doctors cannot treat his injuries. Knowing he will die soon, Rab shows his friendship to Johnny in several ways. He gives Johnny his gun. He brings up old memories, and shows the depth of his friendship in his smile. Finally, he sends Johnny to his relatives at Silsbee's Cove, mostly to spare Johnny the pain of watching him die.
- 7. This novel ends on a note of hope. What hope does Johnny have for his crippled hand? What gives him hope for the future of his country?** When Dr. Warren finally looks at Johnny's hand close up, he tells Johnny that he can cut away the scar tissue that cripples him. He still might not do fine silverwork, but he could use his hand to fire a gun. When Johnny goes outside to wait, he sees Rab's grandfather, Grandsire, leading a group of minutemen toward Boston. Although ragged, they are strong and proud. Johnny admires their dignity and their commitment to freedom. He hopes that such men will always rise up when needed to defend his young country and the cause of freedom everywhere.
- 8. How has Johnny changed since the beginning of the book? What has changed him?** Johnny is no longer cocky and self-centered as he was at the beginning of the book. He has learned to control his temper and his tongue. He has learned to sacrifice himself for others and to risk his life for a worthy cause. Johnny has grown through his suffering and through the example of friends like Rab, the Lornes, and Cilla. He has also grown intellectually through his reading, his political involvement, and being with great leaders like Paul Revere and John Hancock.

Name: _____

Literature Test #1

Johnny Tremain

Chapters I and II

1. Compare and contrast Johnny with the other two apprentices, Dove and Dusty. What kind of Bible verses does Mr. Lapham assign to Johnny? Why?

2. What secret does Johnny tell Cilla? What does he show her to prove his story?

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3. What happens when Johnny tries to cast the basin handles? How does this change Johnny's plan to become a great silversmith?

4. How do the other members of the household treat Johnny after the accident? How does Johnny's own personality change?

Name: _____

Literature Test #2

Johnny Tremain

Chapters III and IV

1. Who is Rab? How does he show his friendship to Johnny when they first meet? How does he show his friendship later on?

2. Why does John Hancock send his servant after Johnny with a purse full of silver coins? What does Johnny do with it?

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3. What does Johnny hope to gain by going to Merchant Lyte? What happens instead?

4. Describe the evidence that suggests Johnny might have stolen Mr. Lyte's cup. Who proves that Johnny is innocent? How?

Name: _____

Literature Test #3

Johnny Tremain

Chapters V and VI

1. How does Johnny again lose possession of his silver cup?

2. Describe Johnny's job at the *Boston Observer*. List at least three advantages of this job.

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3. How do Rab and Johnny differ? Describe Rab's influence on Johnny.

4. Why do the colonists refuse to let British tea be unloaded in Boston Harbor? What do they do with the tea instead?

Name: _____

Literature Test #4

Johnny Tremain

Chapters VII and VIII

1. How is Boston punished for the Tea Party? What is ironic about the effect of this punishment?

2. Why do the Lytes return to Boston in a panic? What does Johnny find when he and Cilla return to the Lyte country mansion? What does he do with these things?

continued...



3. Tell how Johnny's relationship with Cilla changes in this section.

4. According to James Otis, what is the real reason for the colonists' struggle against England?

Name: _____

Literature Test #5

Johnny Tremain

Chapters IX and X

1. What is Johnny's special task in the spy network? What kind of information does he gather? How does he get this information? Give an example.

2. Who is Pumpkin, and how does he help Johnny and Rab? What happens to him?

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3. List some of the clues that suggest the British will soon make a move. Where does Rab go, and why?

4. List at least two ways the patriot leaders in Boston warn the minutemen that the British are coming.

Name: _____

Literature Test #6

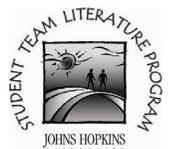
Johnny Tremain

Chapters XI and XII

1. Dr. Warren asks Johnny to stay in Boston for a little while to find out about the British troops that are being sent to Lexington and Concord. How does Johnny feel about the British troops as they prepare to march out? How do his feelings change when he sees them returning to Boston? What different metaphors does Johnny use to describe the British troops before and after the battle?

2. Where will the Lytes live while the fighting is going on? Who will care for their Boston home? How does this help Uncle Lorne and his family?

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3. What happens to Rab? What gives Johnny hope that good will come out of Rab's sacrifice?

4. Explain how Johnny has changed since the beginning of the book. What good has occurred in his life as a result of his terrible accident?
