

APRIL MORNING

LIVING
LITERATURE
SERIES

HOWARD FAST

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

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SYNOPSIS

The Afternoon: At the Cooper home in Lexington, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, April 18, 1775, the eve of the American Revolution, the family assembles for dinner. In a diatribe against superstition, Moses Cooper reprimands 15-year-old Adam, whose younger brother Levi has snitched on him about repeating a spell involving numerology. Granny, Moses's mother, and his wife Sarah try to distract Moses, but he exhibits a cantankerous, argumentative bent by hectoring his older son. When Moses prepares to leave for a committee meeting with a cousin, blacksmith Joseph Simmons, Adam asks to go along. Moses declares Adam too immature. After Moses leaves, Adam complains to Sarah and Granny that his father hates him.

The Evening: The committee meeting provides a weapons count and an opportunity for its leader, Moses, to defend the villagers' rights as free Englishmen. Meanwhile, Adam walks with Ruth Simmons, whom he has intended to marry since they were thirteen. He complains to Ruth about Moses's sternness. At home, he quarrels with Levi for cleaning his gun without permission. From his bed, Adam hears Moses and Sarah talking. When she reveals that Adam thinks his father hates him, Moses declares his love for the boy. Adam is reassured and falls asleep.

The Night: Levi awakens his brother in the middle of the night after seeing a red sky and his own death in a dream. Adam attributes the vision to games in which Levi and his friends pretend to shoot British redcoats. Around 1:00 A. M., Levi hears a horseman racing toward town. The village awakens; a crowd gathers on the common. One of four riders brings news that British officials are reacting to the committee's meetings and militia drills. An army crossed the Charles River at 10:00 P. M. and is marching from Boston northwest through Lexington toward Concord to seize ammunition stores. The route will bring the British through Lexington. Moses and the Reverend lead a lively debate as to whether the militia should muster. Father's speech stirs men and older boys to sign the muster roll and, at 4:00 A. M. Wednesday morning, to face the British. A crisis occurs when Adam stands before his father to pledge his support. Adam walks Ruth home. At home, he and his father pack bread and water. Moses instructs Adam to load his fowling piece with a triple charge and twenty pellets, enough to kill a man. Sarah objects, but Moses insists that Adam is becoming a man and cannot abstain from the military. Sarah questions how simple villagers can stop an army. Moses reassures her that there will be no bloodshed and that the British will respect the colony's firm stand to defend their homes.

The Morning: As they gather on the common before dawn, Moses puts his arm around Adam. The boy is thrilled and touched by the uncommon show of affection. He waits

with other nervous militiamen. The Reverend, who is unarmed, intends to address the British to explain their stand for freedom, which the British repressed in Boston. Villagers line up in two rows of thirty-three and, for safety, keep their guns uncocked. Moses, the Reverend, and two others stand in front. Jonathan Harrington plays the fife. All expect to exchange words with British officers. At 5:00 A. M., the men sing Old Hundred. At dawn, Redcoats line up opposite the muster and fix bayonets. Officers ignore the Reverend and order local "scum" to disperse from the King's green. A Redcoat fires; Moses falls dead. Chaos breaks out as the entire British column fires. Adam and surviving villagers scatter without firing a shot. Adam, sobbing and vomiting, flees to the Harringtons' smokehouse. Levi discovers him and tells about the morning's carnage. He advises Adam to hide in the woods.

The Forenoon: In the woods, Adam eludes two Redcoats, whose guns misfire. Around 9:12 A.M., he encounters Solomon Chandler, an old man from Lincoln who fought with the British in the French and Indian War. He knows their weakness, their contempt for colonials, the heavy packs and uniforms that limit their movements, and the inaccuracy of their muskets. Chandler helps Adam shoulder his grief and leads him to a meeting in Ashley's Pasture with local committees from Middlesex County. Adam finds 100 people arriving from Lexington, including Cousin Simmons and the Reverend and a mix of farmers, storekeepers, and mechanics.

The Midday: A messenger warns that the British are in Concord. He rides back and will return to warn colonials when the Redcoats march along the Menotomy Road. Chandler conceives a plan: Colonials will shelter behind stone walls along the route and fire on the British as they march by, keeping down and running to take positions farther down the road. The tactic works; the British are no longer smug and invincible against an unseen army that seems to stretch endlessly along their route. Smoke indicates that the British are burning houses. Exhausted, Adam sleeps in the brush. He and his compatriots lose their fear as they turn into soldiers. Cousin Simmons points out that it's war now. Although villagers want to be left alone, the British choose to fight them.

The Afternoon: The battle continues as the British move toward Cambridge. Lexington men return home. Adam greets his brother, mother, and grandmother, who feared he was dead. The midwife, Mrs. Cartwright, leads him to his father's corpse. He bathes, then helps to carry Moses's coffin to the meetinghouse to lie among the fallen. Adam reflects on the loss of his childhood. He and his cousin contemplate whether they will muster for the siege of Boston that will start that night.

The Evening: Carrying candles to light his father's coffin, Adam walks back to the meetinghouse with Ruth, who declares her love for him. He replies that he loves her too. She, the Reverend, and Granny ask about the muster. Adam

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can't go because Sarah needs him. But he admits that he will eventually fight with the 5,000 colonials. At night, he comforts Granny on the loss of her son and thanks God the day is over. He falls asleep knowing that he can never return to the security of childhood.

TIME LINE

- 1714** Solomon Chandler is born.
1730 Chandler ships out of Boston.
1744 The British try to capture Nova Scotia.
1748 The British and French retake the territory they lost in the French and Indian War.
1754 French and Indian war begins.
1759 British capture Quebec.
1760 British conquer Canada.
George III becomes King of England.
1763 French and Indian War ends.
1764 April British Parliament passes a tax on sugar.
1765 British Parliament passes the Quartering Act and Stamp Act.
1766 March The Stamp Act is repealed.
1767 The Townshend Act puts new taxes on the colonies.
1770 March 5 Boston Massacre.
1773 Adam decides to marry Ruth.
December 16 Colonists protest taxation at the Boston Tea Party.
1775 April 4 In Boston, Adam hears a man lauding doubt.
Tuesday, April 18 Moses Cooper reprimands Adam at dinner for superstition.
later Moses leaves for a committee meeting. Adam walks with Ruth Simmons.
before bedtime Adam quarrels with Levi for cleaning his gun without permission.
10:00 P. M. Lanterns in the North Church steeple warn that the British are crossing the Charles River. Paul Revere departs on horseback to warn Lexington.
later Adam hears Moses declare he loves his son.
around midnight Levi awakens his brother to tell him about a nightmare.
Wednesday, 1:00 A. M. Levi hears a horseman racing toward town.
later Adam signs the muster roll and packs rations and a gun.
3:00 A. M. Sam Adams and John Hancock leave the Reverend's house.
4:00 A. M. Villagers face the British.
5:00 A. M. Village militiamen sing Old Hundred.
dawn Redcoats line up opposite the muster and fix bayonets. A Redcoat fires; Moses falls dead. Adam flees.
later Levi discovers him and advises him to hide in the woods.
9:12 A. M. Adam encounters Solomon Chandler. They join a meeting in Ashley's Pasture.
before noon The British leave Concord and march along the Menotomy Road.
noon Villagers fire from stone walls. The British burn houses.
later Adam returns home and views his father's corpse.
that night The siege of Boston begins.
bedtime Adam comforts Granny on the loss of her

son and thanks God the day is over.

- June 15** George Washington is named commander-in-chief.
June 17 The Patriots stand firm at the battle of Bunker Hill.
1776 Feb. 27 Patriots win at Moore's Creek Bridge.
May 17 British troops leave Boston.
July 4 The Declaration of Independence is signed.
1777 Oct. 4 Patriots lose the Battle of Germantown.
Dec. 19 Washington's forces begin wintering at Valley Forge.
1778 Feb. 6 French recognize American independence and declare war on Britain.
1779 Sept. 23 John Paul Jones's ship *Bonhomme Richard* captures the British *Serapis*.
1780 Oct. 7, Patriots storm the British in King's Mountain, South Carolina.
1781 Oct. 19 Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown.
1783 Sept. 3 The war ends with the Paris peace treaty.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

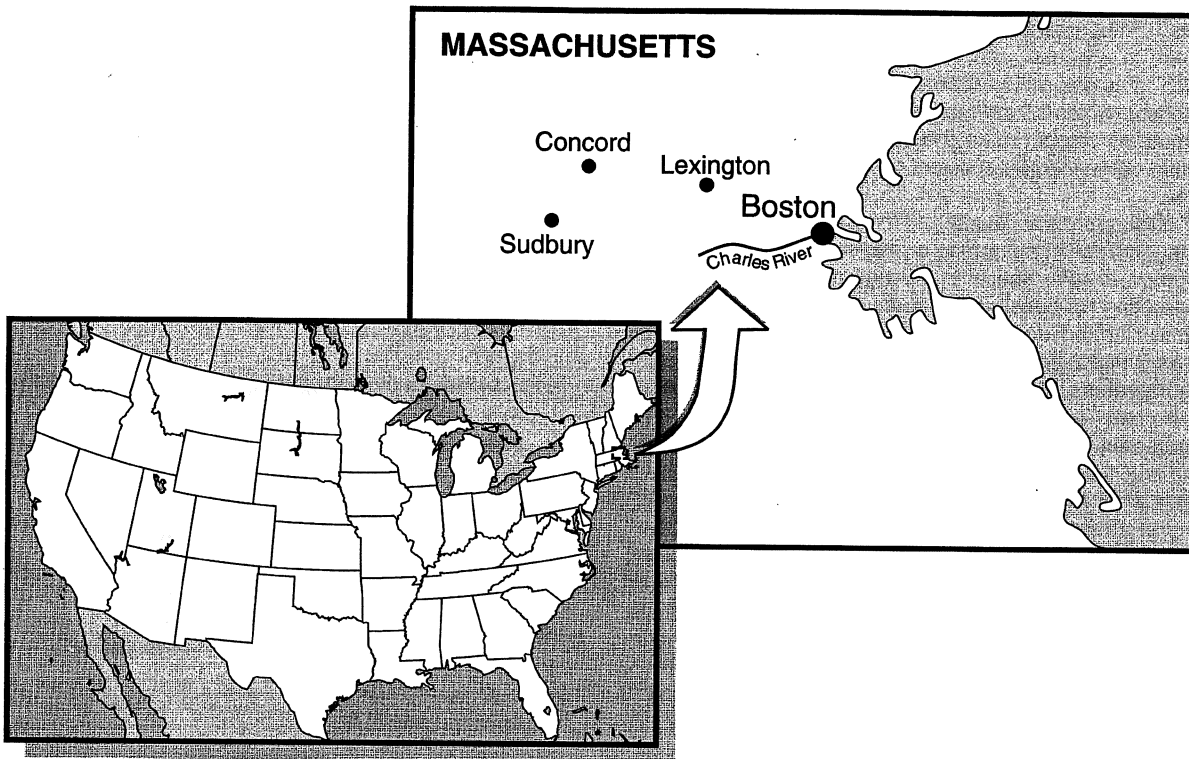
Howard Melvin Fast, a prolific author from his teens, is perhaps best known for his novels of the Revolutionary War era as well as *Spartacus*, his novel of slave rebellion, and a multi-novel San Francisco family saga. The grandson of Ukrainian immigrants, he was born on November 11, 1914, in New York City, where his British mother Ida Miller was a homemaker and his father, Barney Fast, a metalsmith and cable car gripper. Fast began to work at the age of eleven to help support his family. He read voraciously at the New York Public Library, where he worked as a page. He dropped out of high school and attended the National Academy of Design. In 1937, he married artist Bette Cohen, mother of their children, Rachel and Jonathan.

Fast became a professional author at age eighteen with *Two Valleys* (1933), the first of his popular Revolutionary War novels, which is set on the western frontier of colonial America. During World War II, Fast was a war correspondent for the Signal Corps in Burma, India, and China and worked at the U. S. Office of War Information and forerunner of the Voice of America radio program. After the war, he wrote for *Esquire* and *Coronet* and has served the *New York Observer*, *Greenwich Time*, and *Stamford Advocate* as columnist.

Fast's liberalism turned from unionism and anti-fascism to Communism in 1943, a move which adversely affected his reputation. His more radical writings cover such controversial subjects as labor activism, anarchists, Marxist criticism, the Sacco-Vanzetti trial, the Spanish Civil War, and a third-trimester abortion. For focusing on political views, he angered the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) during the McCarthy era and was imprisoned for contempt of Congress for refusing to cooperate with the investigation. While in prison he wrote *Spartacus*, but found no publisher willing to accept his work. Issued through his own house, Blue Heron Press, the historical novel became a bestseller. Director Stanley Kubrick filmed *Spartacus*, which was released in 1960 with great box office success; it starred Kirk Douglas, Tony Curtis, Laurence Olivier, Peter Ustinov, Charles Laughton, Jean Simmons, and John Gavin. At Douglas's insistence, another HUAC victim, Dalton Trumbo, wrote the script. The film won three Academy Awards.

After breaking with Communism following the revelation of Stalin's atrocities, Fast wrote about his experience in *The*

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Naked God (1957). In 1990, he composed a memoir of his Communist Party membership, *Being Red*. Using his own name and the pseudonyms Walter Ericson and E. V. Cunningham, Fast has written for over six decades, producing biography, zen philosophy, short fiction, autobiography, fantasy, historical fiction, screen and stage plays, and detective novels. Ten of his works have been adapted for cinema or television miniseries, including *April Morning*. The book was filmed for television in 1988 and starred Chad Lowe as Adam, Tommy Lee Jones as Moses, Susan Blakely as Sarah, and Robert Urich as Cousin Simmons.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Critics admire Howard Fast's knack for creating verisimilitude and fast-pasted, compelling narration. *April Morning* was published in 1861 to great critical acclaim. Fast himself considers it and another Revolutionary War novel, *The Hessian*, to be the most nearly perfect books he has written.

Fast has also succeeded with detective stories about fictional detective Masao Masuto and with his drama *The Novelist*, which was produced off-Broadway in 1991. His honoraria include a Bread Loaf Literary Award, a Schomburg Award for Race Relations, a Newspaper Guild Award, the National Jewish Book Award, an International Peace Prize from the Soviet Union, Secondary Education Board annual book award, ALA Notable Book, Literary Lions Award, Prix de la Policia Award for detective fiction, and an Emmy.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To follow the pattern of military movements in a war novel
2. To discuss the theme of readiness
3. To explore the use of setting as an adjunct to combat
4. To evaluate the protagonist as a potential hero

5. To explain the author's purpose in depicting family unrest
6. To isolate elements of humor
7. To determine why Fast's novel appeals to young readers
8. To discuss the purpose of revolution
9. To define loyalty
10. To explain the historical, economic, and social background of war

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explain how a character like Adam suits a war novel
2. To examine the theme of fear as it applies to Levi, Adam, and Redcoats
3. To discuss evidence of community concern for the Coopers' grief
4. To note emotional differences in Adam, Ruth, Granny, and Levi
5. To account for differences of opinion about firing on the British army
6. To determine how Solomon Chandler helps Adam cope with loss
7. To enumerate examples of combat horror and carnage
8. To describe Moses as community leader
9. To discuss how villagers cope with fire, shootings, threats to livestock, and invasion
10. To note examples of quiet heroism in Adam, the rider, Jonathan, and the Reverend

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Fast's fiction, present the following terms and applications:

An **aphorism** is a short, pithy statement of a basic truth. The novel abounds in wise sayings, for example, "Slow to

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start and quick to finish," "Wasted steps are like wasted thoughts," "Pride goes before a fall," and "It's one thing to put your head in a noose, and something else to be your own hangman." It is natural for Adam to chafe at the adult reliance on aphorism, which sounds too compact and smugly correct for a youth to combat. Like the villagers, he feels outnumbered and outgunned by succinct bits of wisdom that date to the Bible.

The *bildungsroman*, literally a "formation novel," describes the coming-of-age of an untried or naive youth. Adam's maturity appears to take shape in a single day. Actually, he is already testing his beliefs and values in his dinnertime set-to with Moses. When Adam signs the muster roll, he is on his way toward making decisions based on family, religious, and regional loyalties. Because the first volley ends his innocence, he must dwell in an ill-defined state of manhood until he acquires an fully adult perspective. To help him along the way, he has fellow soldiers, Ruth, Sarah, Granny, Solomon Chandler, the Reverend, and Cousin Simmons.

Irony is an implied discrepancy between what is said or done and what is meant. The Redcoats sneer at the farmers as "dirty gillies," but in fact the colonists are actually far better-educated and much more resourceful than most of the British soldiers. The irony becomes apparent during the battle when the British, with rigid formations and lack of initiative, are outmatched by colonials who use surprise attacks and are accustomed to thinking for themselves.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The milieu of Howard Fast's *April Morning* demonstrates the isolation and rural values that dominate Lexington. Dependent on riders from Boston for news, the village lives in relative peace. Colonial values of family, neighborliness, church, thrift, and community unity are obvious in Adam's first-person commentary on the men who gather for the two musters and in his concern for smoke rising from the area invaded by Redcoats. When Levi sends Adam into the woods, he is comforted by the familiarity of the wild: "Once in the open meadow, I had no fear that they could catch me. I had long legs, and many was the foot race I had won." The sylvan sound of Mill Brook fork, Ashley's Pasture, and Hancock Woods eases Adam's desperation, allowing him to relax in familiar territory, even to fall asleep. As he concludes, "all that was home to me, all that was warm and sweet and good . . . all of this was a hoot and a holler away, just over the hill and across the trees, just so near that I could almost reach out and touch it."

When Adam returns home at the end of his first day of war, civilization once more places its requirements on his actions and thoughts. Although he is dirty and tired, he must accept the jobs of man of the Cooper family and friend to Ruth. The necessity of viewing Moses's corpse and accompanying the pine coffin to the meetinghouse are the citified actions that Lexington folk expect of him. No longer lounging in the woods with Cousin Simmons and Solomon, Adam must take on the trappings of the grieving son and must welcome neighbors and their gifts of food. To escape the responsibilities of manhood, he slips into sleep, the only milieu that is open to rest and release.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

For more information about Howard Fast, the American Revolution, King George III, treatment of the wounded, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult

these sources:

Acting on Your Values, Rosen Publishing Group
Characters in Crisis, Center for Humanities
Healing of an Army, 1777-1778, Historical Society of Montgomery County, 1991.

Medicine in Revolutionary New Jersey, New Jersey Historical Commission, 1975.

A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812, Alfred A. Knopf, 1990

Healing of an Army, 1777-1778, Alfred A. Knopf, 1991

Physician of the American Revolution, Jonathan Potts, Garland, 1979.

Revolutionary Medicine, 1700-1800, Globe Pequot Press, 1997.

Also, consult these web sites: "The American Revolutionary War," <http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/k12history/aha/ahacm/html>.

"American Revolution Timeline," <http://numbers.wap.org/charters/lykara/project/timeline.html>.

"America at War," http://www.senco.net/suburb/dlswoff/amrev_p3.html.

"The Battle of Lexington and Concord," http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Depts/MilSci/BTSI/abs_lex.html.

"Birth of a Nation," <http://tjunior.advanced.org/3803/People/people.html>.

"The Lexington Battle Green," <http://neon.ci.lexington.ma.us/~srosenf/booklet/red/green.html>.

"The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere," <http://www.tiac.net/users/eldred/pr/PAUL.HTML>.

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Howard Fast's *April Morning* should include these aspects:

Themes

- immaturity
- self-control
- loyalty
- autonomy
- violence
- unity
- survival
- self-knowledge
- responsibility
- grief

Motifs

- coping with an opinionated parent
- sibling rivalry
- experiencing social issues on a personal level
- taking responsibility for actions
- forgiving an immature brother
- comforting a grieving parent
- assuming the role of man of the house

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter headings and page numbers note the context in which each appears.

1. Whereas the latter two sects cringed and groveled before the clay and plaster images they worshiped, we stood face to face with our God, as befitting what He had created in His own image. (The Afternoon, p. 12)
(The relationship that the Massachusetts farmers feel they have with God reflects a proud, practical, and inde-

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pendent character. They reject the High Church practice of kneeling in humility and abhor Catholic adoration of sacred images. In this regard Moses Cooper and his neighbors resemble the proud, uncompromising patriarchs of the Old Testament. They conceive themselves to be a chosen people—the elect of God. This view may seem both narrow and intolerant, yet this stubborn colonial pride, justified or not, offered strength and conviction to resist unwarranted interference by the British.)

2. Yet we, your mother, myself, my father, and my grandfather—we have always prided ourselves that we are in a sense the people of the Book. (The Afternoon, p. 17)
(Moses Cooper refers to himself and the Massachusetts farmers who are his neighbors as Bible people. Being deeply religious, they take the Bible as a principal guide, but “the Book” has a larger meaning. It symbolizes a love of learning and hatred of ignorance and superstition. They pride themselves “as thoughtful and reasoning creatures, men who honor the written word, who respect intelligent writing, and who, like the ancient philosophers, look upon argumentation and disputation as avenues toward the deepest truth.” In the Cooper home there are over three hundred well-thumbed books in an era when publications were rare and expensive. It is not surprising that the concept of free public education began in Massachusetts.)
3. Oh, Adam, Adam, what a fuss to make over a cantankerous man who’s enamored with the sound of his own voice! (The Afternoon, p. 23)
(Granny refers to her son as quarrelsome and contrary. The term cantankerous is particularly appropriate when used to describe Moses, who encourages a good argument or debate and will take the opposite side of a question solely for the purpose of disputation.)
4. Father liked to describe himself as Christian-Judaic materialist. (The Night, p. 51)
(Moses Cooper prefers this label to describe his theological and philosophical position. As a New England Presbyterian, he adds the term Judaic to distinguish his fundamentalism and to place greater emphasis on the Old Testament. Like the Jews, he admires learning and discussion. The term materialism refers to Moses’s anathema for any superstitions, such as spells, incantations, and the interpretation of dreams. As a materialist, he reflects the hard-headed pragmatism of the New Englander, whose religion is tempered by the rule of reason and nature.)
5. We were stupid people. We were narrow people. We were provincial people, but over and above everything else, we were civilized people, which was the core of everything. (The Morning, p. 103)
(After the massacre on the Lexington Common, Adam reflects on the terrible mistake his father and the others have made. Their assumption that the British troops would listen to reason is a miscalculation for which many pay with their lives. In their idealism, they believe that all disputes can be settled through structured debate. Although quarrelsome and stubborn, the Middlesex farmers have never taken arms against others. Physical violence is unthinkable and uncivilized. It never occurs to them that the British will be absolutely deaf to reason.

The savage behavior of the Redcoats shocks them into realizing that they have been narrow in their beliefs that others must see things the way they do. On this fateful day, they begin to understand that the civilized rule of reason has given way to war’s barbarism.)

6. They are a poor substitute for machines. (The Forenoon, p. 120)
(Solomon Chandler sums up British soldiers. Although they are ignorant, superstitious, unread, and unlettered, they disdain the colonists. The well-disciplined British foot soldier functions successfully on command, but fails miserably when faced with an unforeseen situation. Like machines geared to routine, they fail to adapt to colonial fighting tactics. In contrast, the better educated Middlesex farmer is accustomed to taking initiative. Hiding behind trees and walls, the colonial soldier easily picks off the Redcoat and then runs.)
7. “Nobody fights in God’s cause,” the Reverend replied harshly. “Isn’t it enough to kill in freedom’s name?” (The Midday, p. 139)
(The Reverend vehemently disagrees with Solomon Chandler’s contention that the militiamen are fighting in God’s cause. Although he too fights, the Reverend cannot believe that God condones killing for any reason. He will ask God’s forgiveness for the necessity of killing to defend their freedom and their homes.)
8. There is no stronger declaration of a man’s purpose than to take a gun and shoot someone dead. (The Afternoon, p. 159)
(Although slow of speech, Joseph Simmons reveals understanding with this statement. He realizes before the others that the Battle of Lexington is merely the overture to a war which may drag on for years. Adam thinks that by defeating the British column, the colonists have ended the fight. Simmons knows that the fighting has committed them all to rebellion. There is no turning back because the British are now the enemy. The colonists, who earlier wanted only to talk, have made the ultimate declaration. Rather than submit, they have resisted force with force.)
9. We had won the battle, but there is less joy in winning a battle than the history books tell you. (The Afternoon, p. 169)
(After a day of fighting, Adam is sickened by slaughter. Whatever romantic notions he may have derived from books pall by comparison to ugly reality. In several brief passages, Fast graphically describes the violent deaths of combatants. The picture is neither pretty nor glorious. This unsentimental account indicates that Adam is moving closer toward an adult perspective.)
10. They said we were all too rich for dirty gillies. (The Afternoon, p. 179)
(Levi is unfamiliar with the Scottish word for peasant or servant boy. At the time of the Revolution, the British derisively referred to colonists as gillies. The insult conveys the idea of thickheadedness and backwardness. It is ironic that many of the colonists are better educated than the soldiers hurling the epithet.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and

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you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages from the novel.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. What is the military objective for a march on Concord?
(Riders from Boston warn the Middlesex residents that a British army has crossed the Charles River and is on the march into the countryside. The probable objective of the Redcoat column is to confiscate arms and ammunition that committees have stored at Concord. Although the British reach Concord, the mission fails because local people have time to remove their stores from the arsenal. Finding no arms or ammunition, the British smash some hogsheads of wheat flour, menace women and children, and burn three Lexington residences.)

The surprising fact of the opening sally is the success of some ragged militia armed with whatever guns they have for personal use. Not only does the column fail its primary undertaking, but the doughty colonists drive it back to Boston by inflicting a large number of dead and wounded. This initial foray gives the British a taste of American resilience, which remained sure and steady throughout a treacherous and painful war.)

2. Why do Lexington's men assemble on the common on April 19?

(As a show of protest, the men assemble on the common to demonstrate their outrage against a British army invading their homes. They intend to talk, not fight. Standing in two lines with their spokesmen before them, they hold uncocked weapons only to prove their readiness to defend their rights.)

Major Pitcairn, the officer commanding the British column, is not disposed to listen. To him, the men of Lexington are merely peasant scum and rebels worthy of bayonets in the guts. When the farmers refuse to disperse, an unidentified soldier fires a shot and the rest of the Redcoats follow his example. The first volley kills several militiamen. The war is on.

In retrospect, Joseph Simmons reflects on the cause of the tragedy: "A man's land is his own, Adam. A man's place is his own. All we wished when we stood out on the common was to tell them that this was our place." Simmons notes that there are no treasures to gain. Above gold or silver, Lexington prizes land, the assembly hall, families, and homes. Joseph regrets that the show of men on the common results in war.)

3. Who are the main characters who interact with Adam?
(To express the motivation for Adam's rapid maturity, Fast employs family, friends, and strangers. Adam's eleven-year-old brother Levi appears in the first chapter as a pest and tattler. As events unfold, he displays affection for Adam that grows deeper. He lovingly cleans Adam's gun. Adam comforts him following a prophetic nightmare about a red sky and death. After Moses's death, Adam consoles Levi much as Adam himself was consoled. When Adam survives the first battle Levi is overjoyed at his return and urges him to seek shelter in the woods.)

On the opposite end of family maturity, Granny, Moses's mother and Adam and Levi's grandmother, is the Cooper matriarch. The first chapter firmly establishes her as the old, wise family bulwark. She recognizes the faults of her son and grandson and interacts to stem the

conflict between them. At the end of the book, Granny is grief-stricken at the loss of her son, but she is still a steady head and adviser to Adam.

Distant from the nuclear family is Joseph Simmons, neighbor and kin of the Coopers. Cousin Joseph is a deeply moral and thoughtful blacksmith. Unlike his brothers, he refuses to enrich himself in the lucrative slave trade. He demonstrates his wisdom by recognizing the significant stand that Lexington makes against British adversaries. To Adam, Joseph becomes a foster parent and guardian. His eulogy for Moses is heart-felt and tender.

The interlinking of the Simmons and Coopers occurs through Ruth, Joseph's daughter and Adam's sweetheart. The two cousins have known each other since birth and intend to marry. Adam does not appreciate Ruth's commitment until after the tragedy on the common. As she follows him on the mission to deliver candles to the meeting house, she confesses a womanly love, which Adam gratefully acknowledges.

Beyond family, Adam finds strength in a stranger. Solomon Chandler, a 61-year-old veteran of the French and Indian Wars, shares his food and helps Adam overcome panic following the massacre on the common. At first, Adam is grateful and friendly toward Solomon, but after the first engagement with the enemy, he loses his regard for Solomon. He indicates that Solomon's delight in killing is "cold as ice" as he stands on the roof and picks targets from the road below.)

4. Why does Adam's attitude toward Moses change?
(The first impression of Moses Cooper is marred by the hard, strict demeanor and dominance that spoil a family supper. Granny allays Adam's distress by pointing out Moses's weakness, the love of his own voice making a point in the heat of controversy. Comparing Moses to his father Abraham, she summarizes his faults as "pigheaded and full of his own notions." Joseph Simmons also lessens the first image of Moses by describing him as "all bark and no bite.")

Moses is amazed when Sarah informs him that his manner leads Adam to believe that his father hates him. Flabbergasted, Moses replies, "my first-born son—why, how could any man love a son any more than I love that boy?" Overhearing Moses's statement, Adam begins to reshape his attitude toward his father. He is ready for the gesture that Moses makes on the way to the muster, when he puts his arm around Adam's shoulder. Moses's silent acknowledgement of Adam's bravery occurs over the muster roll, which Adam signs without having to debate his father.)

5. How do untrained militiamen defeat a superior force of British Regulars?

(When the ragged, undermanned Lexington militia stands in formation on the common, they are slaughtered. To halt further one-sided engagements, they employ the tactics of hunters. By hiding behind stone walls and making breastworks of fallen trees, they are able to fire on the British column, which marches in formation along the Menotomy Road. Because the colonists are scattered along the way, it is pointless for the Redcoats to chase them over the countryside they know so well.)

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The choice of method is fortuitous for the militia. The regular troops stand no chance of catching them because the light-footed militia carries only water bottles, bread, ammunition, and guns. Without heavy packs, they can outdistance the British and further reduce their numbers by running ahead and setting up additional ambush sites. This form of guerrilla warfare saved the colonists and made single-spaced sharpshooters effective against whole companies of British.)

Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

- How is Adam different on the night of April 19?
(Although maturity is usually gradual, Adam appears to grow to manhood in the length of a day. After signing on with the militia, arming himself, and standing fast against the enemy, he acquires a new perspective on manly courage. The terrible loss of his father on the first volley wrenches away Adam's innocence. By nightfall, he has taken orders, marched, eaten cold rations in the field, shared man-talk with veterans, and witnessed the terrifying scenes of a headless corpse, bayonets to the guts, and British dead and wounded hauled away on carts. On returning home, he stands over his father's corpse, helps carry the pine coffin to the meeting house, comforts his mother, and accepts responsibility for the Cooper family. As Adam falls asleep after a hard day, he bids his childhood farewell. No longer possessing a "secure and sun-warmed existence," he lets go of the past. He displays a new sense of responsibility in his protection of Levi and love for Ruth. His behavior, altered by trauma, can no longer be boyish after the brutal shooting of neighbors and his father. His participation in battle sharpens his awareness of the jeopardy of battle. As he begins to understand the bloody war that is ahead, he shares the agony of an emerging nation.)
- Why do the Lexington militiamen flee the common?
(At first, Adam thinks that fleeing the Redcoats without firing a shot is a cowardly act. Solomon Chandler refutes his thinking. He explains that decent folk have no skill at firing guns at other men. The militiamen flee the common because standing in place would merely waste human life. By running to cover, regrouping, and strengthening their numbers, they are able to reconnoiter and establish a new plan. The experience on the common alerts them to the danger of British regulars without disheartening them. The colonial militia has little choice in how it will fight the British. Still clinging to their homes and families, they fight for freedom in the only way an outnumbered host can face staggering odds. By running along the stone wall and clinging to the edge of the woods, they imply to Pitcairn's men that their number is much larger than it really is. By making each shot count and lessening their casualties by remaining behind cover, they begin the difficult job of whittling down the British insurgents.)
- Who starts the Battle of Lexington?
(According to history, no one knows who fired the opening shot against the militia. In "Hymn Sung at the Completion of the Battle Monument, Concord, Massachusetts" (1837), poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson immortalized the first discharge of weapons:

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,

Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.

However, the novelist chooses to weight the evidence against the British. If all the militiamen followed instructions to hold their pieces uncocked, it is unlikely that any of them could have been the first to fire. It is also unlikely that an outsider fired the shot.

As is true of all wars, causes are obscured by emotion, breakdown of communication, lack of perception, and the refusal of either side to see justice in any other position except their own. Thus, American legend has grown up around the belief that a random shot launched a war that had been brewing for years. The inevitable seems to emerge from an unknowable source. In actuality, the grim attitude of both sides was tinder enough to strike a blaze.)

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

- Is Joseph correct in assuming that war is inevitable?
(Cousin Simmons's estimation of war's inevitability is based on his understanding of colonists and of the British. History proves him right. Events leading up to the firing at Lexington display outrage at the British taxation of colonists and the refusal of King George III to recognize the rights of English citizens in the colonies. Conflict grows increasingly hazardous at the Boston Massacre and Boston Tea Party. As militia drill and gather weapons, shot, and powder, the obvious end to their maneuvers draws closer to reality.
The overwhelming evidence establishes that war was the only way that colonists could grasp freedoms that were their right. The conflict ends when the king, whom his American subjects call "fat George," realizes that colonists were no longer English. Their language, beliefs, objectives, and methods distinguished them as Americans.)
- Summarize the structure of the novel?
(Howard Fast achieves immediacy and verisimilitude by placing a hero, Adam Cooper, as narrator of the story. The structure resembles drama performed in eight scenes. Its exposition begins in "The Afternoon," which introduces the familial skirmishes Adam and Moses fight over the dinner table. After the rider warns Lexington, rising action in "The Evening" precedes "The Night" and "The Morning," the climax or height of action—the firing on assembled militia—that alters the situation. From this point on, things can never return to their former state, either for the colonists as a whole or for Adam, who sees his father gunned down on the first volley.
With "The Forenoon," Fast begins the falling action as the militia emerges as a fighting unit with Adam taking his part. During "The Midday" and "The Afternoon," the scattered colonists succeed in harrying the British column. By "The Evening," the action has followed a nation into all-out confrontation of a major fighting force. Parallel to the historic interest is the rise of Adam from child to man. The unity of emerging nation and maturing youth creates a powerful impact. The themes of national commitment and sacrifice become one with the concept of individual courage and responsibility. As Adam grows up, so does the nation.)

Questions 11-13 Creative Level

- Explain in a short speech why an innocent image like

APRIL MORNING

"April Morning" is a suitable title for the book. Propose other possibilities.

12. Make a bulletin board display depicting typical dress for Redcoat officers and soldiers, Middlesex farmers, ministers, and housewives. Include packs, weapons, shoes, hats, and other essentials.
13. Lead a panel discussion of the dangers of making war against England.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Cinema

1. Compose storyboards for the most detailed parts of the novel, particularly mustering on Lexington common, taking candles to the meetinghouse, hiding in the woods, taking stock of Lexington's loss, and observing British carts hauling dead and wounded.
2. Study the text or a video of the musical *1776*. Summarize the opinions that keep the signers of the Declaration of Independence from reaching consensus.

Science and Health

1. Compose a lecture on the treatment of wounded soldiers during the American Revolution. Account for incidents of disease, especially at Valley Forge.
2. Explain what Adam learns about human nature from witnessing his father's death, soldiers with their heads shot off, men laid out for burial, burning houses, and fear in onlookers.
3. Explain to a small group what survival techniques Adam employs to stay alive and active during his first afternoon as a soldier. Account for his ability to sleep during tense moments.
4. Express the value of a midwife to the Lexington community.

Geography

1. Create a mural or web site that introduces these settings: Lexington, Concord, Boston, Cambridge, Medford, Menotomy Road, Sudbury, Charles River, Watertown, Brookline, North Bridge, Sudbury River, Quebec, West Indies, and Kingston, Jamaica.
2. Compose a paragraph contrasting the British and Patriot views as they merge on the Menotomy Road.

Art

1. Using desk-top publishing or other artistic media, design a road sign indicating the way to Concord or Watertown, a handbill advertising donkeys for sale or drilling hours for the Lexington militia, a letterhead from the British Parliament dispatching the Redcoats to capture Patriot ammunition sites, a placard or banner welcoming the Patriots who fought the British, a poster offering a reward for captured militia leaders or shot for a flintlock, pamphlets on how to clean or load a fowling piece, recipes for colonial favorites, or a travel brochure covering historic sites in and around Boston.
2. Lead a panel discussion of scenes of natural beauty, especially woods, rivers, the rock wall, and hamlets. List the elements that Adam treasures.

Law

Launch an internet web site inviting readers to explain the causes of the American Revolution and events leading up to the first armed conflict. Cite examples of civil disobedience, speeches, and patriot caucuses.

Economics

1. Determine the cost of arming a militiaman for the muster. Separate cost of equipment and ammunition from that of food, blankets, and personal supplies.
2. Suggest ways that the colonists can avoid high tariffs other than by war, for example, routing goods through French possessions, substituting local staples for those shipped in from Europe, or establishing a black market.

Social Studies

1. Write a brief address accounting for women's place during the muster. Note the jobs of historic figures like Molly Pitcher and others who worked as nurses, midwives, and innkeepers to help the wounded receive food, medicines, and immediate care.
2. List ways that boys like Adam, Levi, and Jonathan could learn more about military service without endangering themselves.
3. Using characters from the novel, compose extended definitions of Tory and Patriot.

Psychology

1. Make contrasting chalkboard definitions of *esprit de corps*, coercion, guilt, character, and loyalty. Explain how the terms define the mixed emotions the night of the first muster.
2. Determine what factors lead to arguments about challenging a British army, signing the muster roll, arming, drilling, facing so large an enemy, and cocking firearms.
3. Compose a short speech in which you account for Sarah's inability to listen to Adam's experiences so soon after Moses's death. Suggest ways that Adam can spare his mother the details of carnage.
4. Discuss the importance of Granny to the Cooper family. Contrast her grief on losing a son to Sarah's widowhood and Levi and Adam's loss of a father.

Mathematics and Computers

1. Using desktop publishing, compose an annotated time line of the era from the French and Indian War to the treaty that ended the American Revolution. Determine the percentage of the time span taken up by combat.
2. Using a scale of miles, estimate the distance that the Redcoats march from the Charles River to Concord.

Music

Work with a group to list music to accompany an outdoor staging or tableau of *April Morning*. Consider bird calls, Old Hundred, folk songs, drinking songs, patriotic music, and marching tunes to be whistled, hummed, or played on the fife and accompanied by drums.

Language and Speech

1. Compose individual posters explaining significant words and phrases such as fowling piece and Christian-Judaic materialist.
2. Characterize in separate paragraphs the speeches of Moses Cooper, Solomon Chandler, Joseph Simmons, and the Reverend.
3. Account for the awkward table conversation at the Cooper home. Explain Moses's preference for monologue over colloquy.

Literature

1. Read aloud from other writings about war and survival, such as James Lincoln and Christopher Collier's *My*

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Brother Sam Is Dead and Yoko Kawashima Watkins's *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*.

- Using examples from *April Morning*, define coming-of-age conventions, particularly naivete, intergenerational arguments, variance in point of view, hurt feelings, and disobedience.
- Draw a character web representing the interconnectedness between villagers, Solomon Chandler, messengers, John Hancock, Sam Adams, Redcoats, Paul Revere, Tories, militia, and Patriots.

History and Current Events

- Characterize the types of memorials that honor men like Moses Cooper, for example, sculpture, poetry, patriotic songs, museum displays, and reenactments.
- Re-create by time line, webbing, flow chart, mural, or web site the era of the revolution as it affects recreation, education, travel, religion, family life, medicine, commerce, and international relations.

Education

Brainstorm ways of preparing Levi's generation for a protracted war.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Organize a panel discussion of brotherhood. Characterize Adam's relationship with Jonathan and Levi. Note how the difference in age and experience creates differences of opinion. Supply examples of Adam's sympathy for both boys.
- Launch a discussion group to determine why Adam needs to know that his father loves him.
- List questions to ask at an interrogation of Adam or Solomon Chandler concerning how a handful of militiamen managed to inflict so much damage on the Redcoats.
- Using desktop publishing, compose a web site on the themes and symbols of revolution.
- Explain with a collage, shadow pictures, pantomime, or mobile how the revolution has altered the Coopers' lives, especially by making Adam the man of the family, terrorizing Levi, bereaving Sarah and Granny, and causing Ruth to declare her love.
- Dramatize a meeting between the Reverend and Sam Adams and John Hancock. Determine how the concerns of Lexington and Concord differ from those of Boston.
- Create a list of images from the novel that appeal to the five senses, such as "One moment there was a man in the saddle; the next a headless horror on a horse that bolted through the redcoat ranks, and during the next second or two, we all of us fired into the suddenly disorganized column of soldiers."
- Improvise a scene in which Adam speaks at Moses's funeral. Select bold phrases to honor and ennoble the men killed on the common.
- Discuss the effects of unqualified love and acceptance on Adam from Granny. Express how their relationship transcends the daily confrontation between son and father.
- Draw a cause-and-effect diagram illustrating the emotional changes that take place in Adam. Comment on the rapid change from youth to man.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

- List examples of teamwork, fear, religious fervor, loyalty, admiration for courage, ingenuity, discipline, and luck among the militia.
- Compile a list of actions that demonstrate determination to maintain freedom.
- Compose a scene in which Sarah asks Adam how Moses died.
- Make a character list and explain the character flaws of each, including Moses's quarrelsomeness, Levi's tattling, Granny's sour temper, Sarah's fear to interrupt an argument, and the Reverend's piety.
- Account for the seriousness of war against the colonies.

OTHER WORKS BY HOWARD FAST

Two Valleys, 1933
Strange Yesterday, 1934
Place in the City, 1937
Conceived in Liberty: A Novel of Valley Forge, 1939
The Last Frontier, 1941
Haym Salomon, Son of Liberty, 1941
The Romance of a People, 1941
Lord Baden-Powell of the Boy Scouts, 1941
The Unvanquished, 1942
The Tall Hunter, 1942
The Picture-Book History of the Jews, 1942
Goethals and the Panama Canal, 1942
Citizen Tom Paine, 1943
Freedom Road, 1944
The Incredible Tito, 1944
Patrick Henry and the Frigate's Keel and Other Stories of a Young Nation, 1945
The American: A Middle Western Legend, 1946
Never Forget: The Story of the Warsaw Ghetto, with William Gropper, 1946
The Children, 1947
Clarkton, 1947
Tito and His People, 1948
My Glorious Brothers, 1948
Departure and Other Stories, 1949
Intellectuals in the Fight for Peace, 1949
The Proud and the Free, 1950
The Hammer, 1950
Spartacus, 1951
Peekskill, U. S. A.: A Personal Experience, 1951
Fallen Angel, 1951
Tony and the Wonderful Door, 1952
The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti: A New England Legend, 1953
Silas Timberman, 1954
Thirty Pieces of Silver, 1954
The Last Supper and Other Stories, 1955
The Story of Lola Gregg, 1956
George Washington and the Water Witch, 1956
The Naked God: The Writer and the Communist Party, 1957
Moses, Prince of Egypt, 1958
The Winston Affair, 1959
The Howard Fast Reader, 1960
Sylvia, 1960
The Edge of Tomorrow, 1961
Power, 1962
Phyllis, 1962

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Alice, 1963
Lydia, 1964
Agrippa's Daughter, 1964
The Hill, 1964
Penelope, 1965
Helen, 1966
Margie, 1966
Torquemada, 1966
The Hunter and the Trap, 1967
Sally, 1967
Samantha, 1967
Cynthia, 1968
The Jews: The Story of a People, 1968
The Assassin Who Gave Up His Gun, 1969
The General Zapped an Angel, 1970
The Crossing, 1971
The Hessian, 1972
A Touch of Infinity: Thirteen New Stories of Fantasy & Science Fiction, 1973
Millie, 1973
The Case of the One-Penny Orange, 1977
The Immigrants, 1977
The Art of Zen Meditation, 1977
Second Generation, 1978
The Case of the Russian Diplomat, 1978
The Case of the Poisoned Eclairs, 1979
The Establishment, 1979
The Legacy, 1980
The Magic Door, 1980
The Case of the Sliding Pool, 1981
Time & the Riddle: Thirty-One Zen Stories, 1981
Max, 1982
David and Paula, 1982
The Case of the Kidnapped Angel, 1982
The Outsider, 1984
The Case of the Angry Actress, 1984
The Case of the Murdered Mackenzie, 1984
The Immigrant's Daughter, 1985
The Wabash Factor, 1986
The Call of Fife and Drum: Three Novels of the Revolution, 1987
The Dinner Party, 1987
The Pledge, 1988
The Confession of Joe Cullen, 1989
Being Red: A Memoir, 1990
The Novelist: A Romantic Portrait of Jane Austen, 1992
The Trial of Abigail Goodman: A Novel, 1993
War and Peace: Observations on Our Times, 1993
Seven Days in June: A Novel of the American Revolution, 1994
The Bridge Builder's Story, 1995
An Independent Woman, 1997

RELATED READING

Avi, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*
Orson Scott Card, *Ender's Game*
Stephen Crane, *Red Badge of Courage*
Esther Forbes, *Johnny Tremain*
Paula Fox, *Slave Dancer*
Erik Haugaard, *The Samurai's Tale*
Esther Hautzig, *The Endless Steppe*
Robert Heinlein, *Red Planet* and *Starship Troopers*

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James Houston, *Farewell to Manzanar*
Irene Hunt, *Across Five Aprils* and *No Promises in the Wind*
Barbara Kingsolver, *The Bean Trees*
Theodora Kroeber, *Ishi*
James Lincoln and Christopher Collier, *My Brother Sam Is Dead*
Harry Mazer, *The Last Mission*
Walter Dean Myers, *Fallen Angels*
Gary Paulsen, *Nightjohn*
Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*
Kenneth Roberts, *Northwest Passage*
Dalton Trumbo, *Johnny Got His Gun*
Margaret Walker, *Jubilee*
Yoko Kawashima Watkins, *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*
Jessamyn West, *The Friendly Persuasion* and *Except for Me and Thee*
Jane Yolen, *The Devil's Arithmetic*

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VOCABULARY TEST

Underline one word in the choices below to complete each statement.

1. Father replied that he was gratified to be (enlightened, apocryphal, detracted, paraphrased).
2. It has always been a wonder to me that anyone could work up a (threepence, rancor, speculation, soothsaying) toward anything while eating my mother's cooking.
3. You would never think to know Cousin Simmons that he could be so (egalitarian, commissioned, adamant, oratory) on a moral question.
4. Abraham Cooper was just as (slandered, enamored, apoplectic, moot) of the sound of his own voice as you are.
5. His (tirade, dyspepsia, synagogue, monotheism) was so unexpected, so uncalled for that I could not for the life of me think of anything to say.
6. My father appeared (erratic, mollified, withal, contradictory) and offered a compromise.
7. We were (two-score, provincial, firebrand, melancholy) people. But over and above everything, we were civilized people.
8. We have established the new (yeomen, dissenters, matriarchy, fortnight).
9. God's ways are (simmered, inscrutable, lamentations, brisk).
10. Moses Cooper was a (catarrh, prudent, goody, fillip) man.
11. The Reverend carried no gun or (bigotry, manifesto, victuals, tribunal), nor did he appear to be downcast.
12. We had stopped using flour after my father somehow connected English pudding with a (sequence, preamble, High Church, conciliative) point of view.
13. We are not here by choice, but because our consciences dictate that we assert our (primacy, ague, equitable, odds) in the place of our homes and birth.
14. And then, after all the waiting, all the climax and the (ado, anticlimax, quasi-military, hostel) of the long night, the British came and dawn came.
15. I tried to explain that Solomon Chandler had shared a whole (antimilitarist, temporal, papist, provision) bag with me, but that wouldn't satisfy him a bit.
16. I helped Cousin Simmons and the undertaker carry my father's coffin to the (synagogue, meetinghouse, fortnight, chandlery) - the village church.
17. I could imagine the other boys talking about it and building up their own personal deeds, the way boys do, and (profit, cozen, strutting, dragoon) in front of the girls.
18. My father once heard me say that spell, and he took me into the barn and gave me seven with the (birch rod, hogshead, fencepost, sects).
19. "We have done no (misdeeds, scripture, peasant, legality) only stood by certain rights and privileges that are granted to us by the Almighty God and the struggles of our fathers."
20. There were some sixty-odd smoothbore guns, of which about ten were old-fashioned (sects, firelocks, townships, flag-bearers).

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Complete each sentence below with the correct conclusion.

- _____ 1. Moses criticizes Adam for
A. forgetting to draw water for Sarah. B. speaking insolently to Granny.
C. being immature. D. setting a poor example for Levi.
- _____ 2. Moses regards himself as
A. a veteran of the Indian wars. B. a Christian-Judaic materialist.
C. an idealist. D. an independent American soldier.
- _____ 3. To the committee, Joseph proclaims that the rights of man derive from
A. God. B. law. C. the High Church. D. the individual.
- _____ 4. Members of the Lexington militia stand on the common
A. unarmed. B. with guns uncocked.
C. awaiting the roll of the drum. D. with bayonets fixed.
- _____ 5. When the British open fire, the militiamen
A. return fire. B. charge their line. C. retreat to the common. D. flee.
- _____ 6. According to the Reverend, the militia fights
A. for their rights as American citizens. B. for the English colonies.
C. in God's cause. D. for freedom.
- _____ 7. On the way back to Boston, the Redcoats are
A. encouraged to burn all houses. B. ineffectively harassed.
C. badly mauled by hit-and-run tactics. D. lacking discipline.
- _____ 8. Solomon
A. enjoys killing Redcoats. B. regards Adam as an immature boy.
C. hates marching and drilling. D. once fought for the English.
- _____ 9. Adam
A. vows never to fight again. B. joins the siege at Boston.
C. is uncertain what Ruth would have him do. D. accepts his family responsibility as his first duty.
- _____ 10. The novel
A. condemns the British. B. re-creates the first day of revolution.
C. idealizes New England's military strength. D. questions the formation of militias as a cause of war.

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

Fill in the paired blanks with answers that complete each statement.

1. Mrs. _____ leads _____ upstairs to view the body.
2. _____ accompanies _____ to the meetinghouse to deliver candles.
3. The person playing _____ had the right to _____ any Redcoat.
4. The _____ army is driven back to _____.
5. The _____ divulges that Sam Adams and _____ were at his house.

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Part III: Cause and Effect (20 points)

Finish each of these statements.

1. Moses refuses to let Adam attend the meeting because _____

2. Adam agrees to escort Ruth home because _____

3. Adam glares at the midwife because _____

4. Sarah sends candles because _____

5. Moses is the first man killed because _____

6. Adam weeps convulsively because _____

7. Signing the muster is a mature act because _____

8. The rider hurries to Lexington because _____

9. Joseph seems like a parent because _____

10. Adam is able to sleep in the woods because _____

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Account for Adam's unhappiness at dinner.
2. Describe the scene in which Moses falls dead.
3. Discuss the significance of superstition to Moses.
4. Summarize details of Adam's meeting with Solomon.
5. Explain why Sarah cannot listen to Adam's war stories.

APRIL MORNING

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Quotations (20 points)

Select a name from the list below to identify as the character who speaks each line that follows. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank provided.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| A. Adam Cooper | E. Ruth Simmons | H. General Gates |
| B. Moses Cooper | F. Solomon Chandler | I. the Reverend |
| C. Levi Cooper | G. Major Pitcairn | J. Sarah Cooper |
| D. Joseph Simmons | | |

- _____ 1. We came to this land in the beginning because savagery and superstition were an abomination to us; and in the midst of a new savagery, we planted our seed of culture and civilization.
- _____ 2. You always read about wars. But no one ever explains why a war starts. They just start. Suppose one starts tomorrow?
- _____ 3. Clear the way, do you hear me! Get off the King's green!
- _____ 4. There is no stronger declaration of a man's purpose than to take a gun and shoot someone dead.
- _____ 5. There is less joy in winning a battle than the history books tell you.
- _____ 6. I had a dream that the whole sky was a terrible red, and I died.
- _____ 7. Yesterday, he was a boy. . . Tonight, he's not.
- _____ 8. We were stupid people. We were narrow people. We were provincial people. But over and above everything, we were civilized people, which was the core of everything.
- _____ 9. The natural way is to let the old go, let the young live and taste life. Your father went too soon, but oh, my heavens, laddie, life is only a day, a long, long day, but that's all.
- _____ 10. Moses Cooper was no saint. He was just as stubborn as a Methodist preacher, but he was a brave man with fine convictions, and I don't think there was ever a day went by that I didn't feel pride and satisfaction in knowing he was my friend.

Part II: True or False (20 points)

In the space provided write **T** if the statement is true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Adam never realizes that his father does not hate him.
- _____ 2. Granny refuses to criticize Moses because he is the head of the house.
- _____ 3. Joseph Simmons avoids his brothers.
- _____ 4. Adam and Ruth agree that some day they will marry.
- _____ 5. Moses believes that the committee is more important than the militia.
- _____ 6. The men of Lexington decide to fight if the British pass through their village.
- _____ 7. During the long day, Adam feels only hatred for Redcoats.
- _____ 8. Solomon enjoys picking off officers with his long rifle.
- _____ 9. In retaliation for losses, the British burn three houses.
- _____ 10. Joseph romanticizes the first battle of the American Revolution.

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Part III: Identification (30 points)

Place an X by statements that refer to Adam.

- _____ 1. sneaks around to visit Ruth at night.
- _____ 2. is the only person playing the fife.
- _____ 3. signs the muster roll for the assault on Boston.
- _____ 4. intends to take care of his family.
- _____ 5. believes Levi tattles on him.
- _____ 6. shares his food with Solomon and Joseph.
- _____ 7. weeps in the smokehouse.
- _____ 8. attaches a bayonet to his fowling piece.
- _____ 9. loads his gun with a triple charge.
- _____ 10. learns the feel of 27 shot without counting them.
- _____ 11. feels at home in the woods.
- _____ 12. observes a cart carrying British wounded and dead.
- _____ 13. aims at the officer who shot Moses.
- _____ 14. values Granny's opinion.
- _____ 15. tolls the bell to announce the enemy approach.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. List and describe scenes in which Adam is afraid.
- 2. Describe the scene in which Adam returns home from a day of war.
- 3. Explain why the invasion terrifies the people of Lexington.
- 4. Account for Solomon's knowledge of British fighting methods.
- 5. Compare Adam's feeling for Moses before and after the battle.

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. enlightened | 11. victuals |
| 2. rancor | 12. conciliative |
| 3. adamant | 13. primacy |
| 4. enamored | 14. anticlimax |
| 5. tirade | 15. provision |
| 6. mollified | 16. meetinghouse |
| 7. provincial | 17. strutting |
| 8. matriarchy | 18. birch rod |
| 9. inscrutable | 19. misdeeds |
| 10. prudent | 20. firelocks |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. A |
| 2. D | 7. B |
| 3. C | 8. D |
| 4. D | 9. D |
| 5. A | 10. B |

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

1. Cartwright, Adam
2. Ruth, Adam
3. Pontiac, scalp
4. British, Boston
5. Reverend, John Hancock

Part III: Cause and Effect (20 points)

Answers will vary.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Quotation Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. C |
| 2. E | 7. B |
| 3. G | 8. A |
| 4. D | 9. F |
| 5. A | 10. D |

Part II: True or False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. T | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. T |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Part III: Identification (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. | 6. | 11. X |
| 2. | 7. X | 12. |
| 3. | 8. | 13. X |
| 4. X | 9. X | 14. X |
| 5. X | 10. | 15. |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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