

Additional Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions

Setting and overview: New England colonies; late 1700s. Sherry, Paul Revere's horse, dislikes the colonists when she first arrives with the British Redcoats before the Revolutionary War. However, as she lives with the Reveres, she enjoys her freedom and decides to throw in her lot with the colonies, advising them of British movement. Their last ride together is to warn, "The British are coming." The British shoot Sherry and she never rides again with her master - but then, there is no need.

To find help with some of the vocabulary you may not be familiar with, see the section "What's That Word?" at the back of the book.

Q: Why was Sherry's trip to America uncomfortable? [chapter 1]

A: rats were everywhere, hay was moldy, grain was mildewed, water was bad, and there was no grooming

Q: How were the English troops welcomed? [chapter 2]

A: coldly - no places to stay, and silent or jeering townsfolk

Q: Did the officers go to Loyalist households frequently? [chapter 3]

A: no - vandals harmed the Loyalist property if they consorted with the English

Q: How does Sherry come to work for Stinky Nat? [chapter 4]

A: her British master loses her in a card game

Q: How does Sherry come to work for Paul Revere? [chapter 5]

A: Stinky Nat loses her to Samuel Adams after his passionate speech, which makes the townsfolk commandeer her for Revere

Q: What various jobs does Revere do? [chapter 6]

A: silversmith, engraver, carved picture frames, made false teeth, worked as a seditionist and fire warden

Q: Although the Militia did not look very good, what could they do well? [chapter 7]

A: shoot

Q: Why could Mrs. Revere not have any English tea, even though English tea with a tax costs less than smuggled Dutch tea? [chapter 7]

A: because of the principle, not the cost

Q: What is Mr. Rotch's tea dilemma? [chapter 7]

A: He cannot sail the ships back to England because he has no clearance papers. He cannot unload his cargo because the Sons of Liberty will not allow him, but if he does not unload his cargo in twenty days, the government gets to keep it.

Q: How do Revere and others help Mr. Rotch? [chapter 8]

A: they have the Boston Tea Party [1773] and throw his tea overboard, then let him unload the rest of his cargo

Q: Was the King's Highway a decent road? [chapter 9]

A: no, it was full of bogholes, ruts, rocks, and tree stumps

Q: When Boston Harbor closed, why did Revere ride through the colonies? [chapter 10]

A: to plead for aid

Q: Why did Revere ride on his famous ride? [chapter 10]

A: to urge the Militia to take Fort William and Mary with many supplies and few guards, which they did just one hour before General Gage arrived to move the arsenal; also to warn Concord

Q: Does Revere's family stay in Boston? Why? [chapter 11]

A: no, they move to Charlestown; Revere is too well known and he needs freedom to feed his large family

Q: How do Hancock and Adams and the Concord Militia react to Revere's news of a British attack? [chapter 11]

A: Hancock and Adams do not move; the Militia removes everything as swiftly as possible

Q: What happens each time Revere runs into the British on his important trip? [chapter 12]

A: the first time Revere escapes their pursuits; the second time he and a friend go opposite directions, but he is caught by another group, then escapes when there is confusion from a signal valley

Q: How do the colonists make the British turn and run? [chapters 13 and postscript]

A: they shoot better and take cover - the British make easy targets and do not shoot well