

Advanced Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions

Setting and overview: New York; 1776. In 1776, Phoebe's father sends her to stay with General Washington for a few months. She must both care for the house and discover who is plotting to kill him. Two months later, her favorite person tries to poison the general's peas, but she stops him. This black father and daughter help Washington's fight for freedom, even while their people are still slaves.

Q: How does Phoebe's father hear about the plot? [p. 6-17]

A: he owns an inn and people say things they shouldn't when they forget he is in there

Q: Why does Phoebe's father think the freedom they fight for is strange?

A: they are black and many other black people are still sold as slaves

Q: What are Phoebe's tasks? [p. 18-25]

A: air and turn the quilts and father beds, buy food, serve meals on time, shine silver, and dust and polish furniture

Q: Which family members come with Washington?

A: Martha Washington, his wife

Q: What does Hickey often bring Phoebe? [p. 26-35]

A: treats for herself, and food for the chickens

Q: Why is Phoebe's father worried when she's been a housekeeper for only two months? [p. 26-35]

A: Washington will leave soon and the culprit will strike before he leaves

Q: How does Phoebe know who the culprit is? [p. 36-47]

A: she hears his first name, which begins with "T" and realizes he puts poison on the peas he brought

Q: What happens to the food Phoebe threw out the window? [p. 36-47]

A: the chickens peck at it and die almost instantly

Q: How is Phoebe's father rewarded? [p. 36-47]

A: besides a thank you and Washington's trust, Washington celebrates the end of the war at Phoebe's inn