

Guided Reading Activity

Group Members: _____

Information: Today you will be reading excerpts from the book *Abigail Before the Revolution*, by Diane Leatherman. The book is about a Colonial family living in Virginia shortly before the American Revolution. You will be reading a selection of passages that tell the story of how Abigail, who is just 11, and her younger brother entered into apprenticeships to help support their family.

Instructions: In your small groups, read each chapter together. As you read, stop and use reading strategies for words or sentence that you don't understand. The characters in this story talk a little bit differently than you and me, so work together as a team to determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases.

After reading the chapter, answer the questions about that chapter before moving on to the next reading passage. On a separate piece of paper, have one group member record your group's answers. Answer the question first and then show the evidence from the text to prove your answer is correct. Remember, when using evidence, you should use phrases like "In the text it said..." or something similar.

Chapter 4:

Q1: What does Abigail see and do at the Market Fair? Give 3 examples of things she *sees* and 3 examples of things she *does*.

Q2: Does Abigail want to become an apprentice in Mistress Jolly's shop? How do you know? What about her brother, Henry? Is he excited for his apprenticeship?

Chapter 8:

Q1: Reread the passage when Neighbor Mooney took Henry to the town where he will now live. Do you think Henry has ever visited a big town before? How do you know?

Q2: Henry is a little nervous about his new life, but over time he begins to realize that maybe it won't be so bad after all. What were some of the good things that Henry notices about being an apprentice and living in town?

Chapter 11:

Q1: Now that Henry is back at home, Abigail's mother says that maybe it would be best for Abigail to now begin her apprenticeship with the milliner. Why does Abigail's mother think this? Give her reasons from the text.

Chapter 13:

Q1: What do you think Abigail means when she says she was "comfoozled"? What clues did you use to figure out the meaning from the text?

Q2: There are many advantages (good things) about Abigail's apprenticeship. Give 4 examples of these advantages of Abigail's new life in Alexandria with evidence from the text.

Chapter 17:

Q1: How is Abigail changing as she spends time with Mistress Jolly? What sorts of things is she learning? Give evidence of at least 2.

Q2: Why did Abigail have to leave Mistress Jolly's and go home? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.