The Secret Soldier by Ann McGovern

Discussion Questions:

Sent Away

• (p 3) Do you think the children know they are about to be sent away? Explain.

• (p 5) Deborah has lost her second mother, as well as her father at a very young age.

How is she going to deal with it? Where will she go?

• (p 7) Do you think Deacon Thomas’ family will be better or worse than Mrs.

Thatcher? Explain

A Family Again

• (p 8) She is just a child, yet she is a servant. Is this fair? Do you think she will like it

here? Explain.

• (p 10) Why would reading be bad for girls? Do you agree?

• (p 11) Why does Deborah want to go to school?

• (p 12) Why did others think that Deborah is odd? Do you agree?

• (p 14) How does she feel about money? What do you think she’ll spend it on?

Created by T. Piper T7piper@gmail.com 2

A Country in Trouble

• (p 16) What was it like in America in the 1770’s? Would you want to live there?

Explain.

• (p 18) How was Deborah’s reaction different from the King of England’s? Why might

they have such different reactions to the Boston Tea Party?

• (p 20) How is Deborah feeling at the start of the Revolutionary War?

• (p 21) Why would the bells ring when there was important news?

• (p 22) What can you infer about Deborah? Will she be a servant for much longer?

Free- to Do What?

• (p 23) Now that she is no longer a servant, what will she do?

• (p 25) How is the school Deborah is teaching at different from your school? How is it

the same?

• (p 26) Do you think Deborah will like her mother’s idea? Explain.

• (p 27) Do you think that the law was fair to women? Why or why not?

• (p 29) Why would Deborah want to sneak into the army? Do you think her plan will

work?

The Fortune Teller

• (p 30) Why would some people believe that Americans should still be ruled by

England?

• (p 32) What does Deborah do to test if her disguise will work? Is she successful?

What characteristics might she need to carry out her plan?

Deborah’s Secret Plan

• (p 34) What reason does Deborah have or disliking the man who comes to visit?

• (p 30) Why doesn’t Deborah give up? What does this tell you about her?

They Call her “Bobby”

• (p 39) What do you think made her faint? Why does everyone think she is a boy? Is

her disguise successful?

• (p 40) Is being a soldier what Deborah expected it to be? Explain.

“Leave Me, I Am Going to Die!”

• (p 43) Why doesn’t Deborah want to be treated at the hospital? What might happen

if she doesn’t get treated?

• (p 45) Why didn’t her leg heal properly? What does this tell us about the sort of

person Deborah was?

In a Cold Attic

• (p 46) Do you think it is fair to leave the wounded soldier behind? Do you think a

stranger will take good care of them?

• (p 48) Why was Van Tassel so mean? Was the same true for his daughter? Explain.

Discovery

• (p 49) How is her new job better than being a regular soldier?

• (p 50) Why would a doctor think she was dead? Is she lucky that the men were

fighting over who would get her clothing?

• (p 51) Why would the doctor not tell her secret? Do you think he will ever tell?

“Is It Really True?”

• (p 53) Why is Deborah upset? What do you think will happen to her?

• (p 54) Why does she change her mind about letting her secret out?

• (p 55) What reason does the captain have for disbelieving what he is seeing?

• (p 56) Do you think Deborah wanted to leave the army at this point? Why?

A Farmer’s Wife

• (p 57) Why is Deborah willing to get married now, when she wanted nothing to do

with it before?

• (p 58) Will Deborah be able to persuade Ben to move to Ohio? Why or why not?

• (p 59) Why would Deborah treat Susanna like her own child?

Adventure Again

• (p 60) Why would everyone be interested in hearing Deborah’s story? What made it

unique?

• (p 62) How did fighting in the war change Deborah’s opinion about fighting?