

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?
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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 for 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?