

I Survived the American Revolution, 1776

by Lauren Tarshis

Dialogue Journals Teacher Guide

Note to Teachers

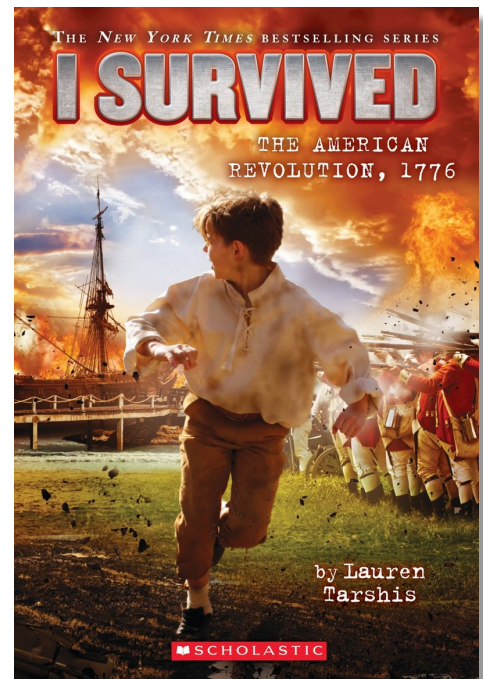
Classroom Journals

This dialogue journal activities in this packet expand upon the *I Survived the American Revolution, 1776* activities described in the Scholastic Top Teacher blog (January 2018). The printable version is created to support teachers who want to use classroom journals instead of the digital format.

Digital Dialogue Journals

Share [digital dialogue journals](#) on Google Classroom. Assign partners. Once the file is open, students “invite” their assigned partners, making sure to give their partners editing rights.

The digital rubric in the document is designed to use with [Orange Slice: Teacher Rubric](#), a Google Doc add-on, which can be added by accessing the ad-on menu in Google Docs. Orange Slice interacts with the rubric to assess student work and provide visual feedback. Visit my Scholastic Top Teacher post “[7 Google Apps, Extensions, and Add-Ons for English Teachers](#)” to watch a video tutorial for using the Orange Slice add-on.



Introducing the Dialogue Journals

Notice that the activities scaffold in complexity, starting small and expanding to in-depth discussions about the book. Because the dialogue journals are designed to motivate struggling readers and writers, discussion questions are provided. You may want to modify the tasks to meet the needs of your student and create open-ended questions. Project the sample journal entry and rubric and discuss the expectations of the assignment. Remind students to check their grammar and spelling.

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Sample of a Dialogue Journal Entry

Question: How do you know that Nathan dislikes his uncle?

Dear Sebastian,

In chapter two, Nathan hears his uncle's voice while he is outside working in the garden. He uses words like "barking," a harsh and angry tone, to describe Storch's voice (4). He is probably ordering Eliza around because she isn't serving him fast enough. Nate also, says that his uncle has hog-like table manners. On page five, Nathan describes Storch cracking the goose bones with his teeth as he gnaws on the leg. Oh, the sound! It is disgusting, worse than smacking your lips loudly or eating with your mouth open. I can't get the sound of cracking bones out of my ears. Do you think all loyalists are so pompous and fake?

Sincerely,
Ronica

Dear Ronica,

I can't imagine what my mother would do if Uncle Storch were eating dinner at our house. It's like eating chicken wings and crunching on the bones – caveman-like behavior – even for me. I don't know if all loyalists are rich, but it makes sense that wealthier people would be more loyal to King George and poorer people would be patriots.

Did you notice that Eliza is afraid of Storch, too? She's afraid that Theo will be sold and taken away from her. I know this is before the Civil War, but slavery is evil -- then and now. He treats Nathan as a slave -- his own nephew. On page 22, Storch almost kills Nate, grabbing him with his "iron claws" and choking him. I don't blame Nathan for fearing his uncle and running away. I'd run away, too.

Sincerely,
Sebastian

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

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Dialogue Journal Rubric

Criteria	3 Thorough / Insightful Understanding (100%)	2 Minimal / Literal Understanding (75%)	1 Partial / Limited Understanding (50%)
Ideas	response contains insightful ideas that are thoroughly explained, and connections beyond the text	response contains literal ideas, accurately completed tasks; may struggle with clarity	response shows some confusion or partially correct tasks
Text Details	sufficient, relevant text details support insightful ideas	some text details support ideas	few text details support ideas
Citing Details	cites details correctly, using page numbers	attempts to cite details correctly using page numbers	does not cite text details
Sentence Structure	demonstrates mastery of sentence structures	attempts to use complete sentences structures	struggles to use complete sentences
Grammar	masterfully uses correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation	attempts to use correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation	struggles to use correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation

Total Score _____ / 18

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

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Dialogue Journal Discussion Questions

As you read *I Survived the American Revolution, 1776*, think about the following questions and respond to them in a dialogue journal. Use text details to support your ideas. Be sure to check your grammar, spelling, and punctuation before sharing your journal entries with a friend.

Journal Entry #1

Directions: After watching the *Scholastic Scope* video [Time Machine: American Revolution 1776-1783](#), discuss how colonial times are similar to and different from your life today.

Journal Entry #2

Question: Reread the sentence below from page 15.

Storch and Marston had finished eating their cake and were puffing on cigars.

Revise the author's sentence using figurative language to create imagery, emphasizing how the pompous men eat and puff on cigars. Share your sentences with your friend. Discuss why your revisions make the sentences more interesting.

Journal Entry #3

Question: According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, resilient is "tending to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change." Would you describe Nathan as resilient? Explain why or why not.

Journal Entry #4

Question: Think back to what you learned about shifts in text structure. On pages 24-25, 43-44, and 103-104, Nathan reflects upon stories of pirate Slash O'Shea. Why do you think the author weaves details of the pirate's life into Nathan's story?

Journal Entry #5

Question: After considering the advantages and disadvantages from both the colonists and the British perspectives, debate who you think should have won the war.