

### Literature Circle Questions

Use these questions to get more out of the experience of reading *Midnight Rider* by Joan Hiatt Harlow.

1. How does Hannah first meet Will and Caleb?
2. Make three columns with the following headings: “Whig,” “Tory,” and “Undecided.” Under each heading, list the characters who are aligned with each cause at the start of the novel.
3. Which characters use the secret tunnel? Why do they use it? What do they do there?
4. In your own words, explain the meaning behind Sarah Tarrant’s words on page 341: “Do you think we were born in the woods to be frightened of owls?”
5. Catherine says that Hannah is the best friend Meg ever had. Why is Hannah such a good friend? Give four or five examples.
6. Why does Hannah feel like a traitor to the Gage family? To whom else might she feel like a traitor?
7. What would you say to Mrs. Gage to convince her to completely support the Whigs’ cause?
8. This story is told from the perspective of a young servant girl. In what ways do Hannah’s gender, age, and position help her? In what ways do these factors limit what she can do?
9. Explain the significance of the name “Promise” to Hannah and to the story.
10. Hannah and Catherine each have one prized possession from their homes. Explain why these items are significant to each girl.
11. When she is angry or frustrated, Hannah sometimes mimics people’s voices. How else might Hannah have used her talent for mimicry in this story?
12. Imagine Hannah is a student in your school. What classes, clubs, and activities might she be interested in? Pick one other character from the book. What school activities would he or she be interested in?
13. Decide whether or not it was wise for Hannah to disrupt the British soldiers during her midnight rides with Promise. How might Hannah’s actions have helped the Whigs’ cause? How might her actions have hurt their cause?
14. On page 249, Mrs. Gage questions Hannah about Meg’s activities. Argue why you

think Hannah made the right decision in her response or why you think she did not. What would you have done in her position?

15. Hannah and Lydia respond differently to authority and instructions. Justify the behavior of each character. Which way of behaving is most similar to yours?

*Note: These Literature Circle questions are keyed to Bloom's Taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-3, Comprehension: 4-6, Application: 7-8, Analysis: 9-10, Synthesis: 11-12, Evaluation: 13-15.*

### **Activities**

1. Create a menu for a restaurant in the year 1775. Be sure to include a variety of meal options and prices. Give your restaurant a name and a theme or a logo.
2. Create a timeline of significant events in Hannah's life.
3. Choose one character in the novel and write a help wanted ad to which he or she might respond. For instance, Meg might answer an ad to work in a boutique, while Phillis Wheatley would be more likely to answer an ad seeking an English teacher.

### **Other Books by Joan Hiatt Harlow**

*Joshua's Song*

*Shadow Bear*

*Shadows on the Sea*

*Star in the Storm*

*Thunder from the Sea*