

Discussion Questions

for

The Darkness: Tales From a Revolution - Maine

Chapters 1-5

- What is George's relationship with his brothers and parents like at the opening of the book?
- How has the British presence in the fort near to town changed the lives of the residents?
- Did the response of the girl in the alley to being assaulted conform with the social norms of the time?

Chapters 6-10

- What explanations for the Dark Day do we hear from the townspeople?
- How do the rebel plotters hope to act in the wake of the failed military expedition?
- How does George's poor judgment lead him to the possibility of a career?

Chapters 11-15

- How does the institution of apprenticeship compare with modern vocational education?
- What opportunity does Louise's father see in the predicted eclipse?
- What impression of British administration do we get from George's interactions at the fort?

Chapters 16-20

- The treatment of George during the Lieutenant's questioning of his is brutal, but is it effective?
- Why does the distinction between the status of a prisoner of war and a common criminal matter?
- How do the defenses of the fort against an assault in force leave open the possibility of other approaches?

Chapters 21-25

- Why does the triumph of George and Louise's plan leave George feeling defeated and empty?
- How has George changed in the short time he's been away from the farm, and how is it reflected in his relationships with his parents?
- Who is glad to see the arrival of the American expedition, and who is fearful of it?

Chapters 26-30

- What is the sense that you develop about the state of science based on the instruments brought by the expedition, and the questions they seek to investigate?
- How does the revelation of his mother's relationship with his grandfather give George new insight into his parents' marriage?
- What does Louise's unexpected proposal do to her relationship with George and with her father?

Chapters 31-32

- How did the experience of the eclipse differ from the Dark Day earlier in the year?
- How was the Harvard expedition illustrative of the role that America sought to play on the world stage, and how was the British impact on its success also symbolic?