

# Discussion Questions

## for

### *The Light: Tales From a Revolution - New-Jersey*

#### Chapters 1-5

- What is the root of the conflict between Robert and his father?
- How does that conflict impact Robert's standing in the community?
- Which loss affects Robert more severely, the death of his mother or his removal from the meeting of the Society of Friends?

#### Chapters 6-10

- How much does Robert's relationship with his own parents seem to have shaped his approach to being a father?
- What does the King's response to the Quakers' Olive Branch Petition finally convince Robert of?
- How does the arrival of the news of the Battles of Lexington and Concord affect the different groups of residents in Trenton?

#### Chapters 11-15

- How does the attitude of the regular Quakers both undermine the cause of the Revolution and drive Robert further from them?
- Do you think that the establishment of a separate meeting will mark a full schism in the Quaker faith, or is it just a temporary expediency?
- How does the enmity between Rufus and his brother Angus create an opportunity for an associate of Angus'?

#### Chapters 16-20

- How does Rufus' injury further bring into focus the differences of views among the Society of Friends?
- When Rufus acts in response to his injury, what is the potential impact on the militia, and how is it mitigated?
- How does Angus leverage the blow that Rufus strikes against Charles and Robert into advantage for his friend?

#### Chapters 21-25

- How does the loyalty oath demanded by the Committee of Safety lead to the open break between the brothers?
- In what way is the action of the Quakers in reading Robert out of meeting shown now to be hypocritical?
- How does the duel forestall wider violence in the town?
- How does the arrival of the Hessian forces bring Robert to a crisis, and how does his neighbor help him?

#### Chapters 26-30

- What does Robert's interaction with the British officer reveal about his character?
- How does Robert's reputation among the people of the town aid in the restoration of what the British left behind?
- How does the rout of the British by Washington and his forces lead Robert to a terrible dilemma?

#### Chapters 31-34

- How is Robert's act of faith rewarded?
- How does Robert's faith ultimately prove insufficient to save Rufus from himself?
- What do you make of the closing line of the book?
- How did the divisions within the Quaker community mirror those within the wider American populace?