

# Discussion Questions

## for

### *The Tree: Tales From a Revolution – New-Hampshire*

#### Chapters 1-5

- What does the discussion at the mercantile tell us about the relationship between the colonists and crown authorities?
- How do Abe's father's plans illustrate what some colonists hoped to achieve in America?
- How does Aunt Rosanna's preservation of eggs show us the ingenuity of pre-technological food preparation and storage?

#### Chapters 6-10

- What aspects of small-town life remain constant, as we see in the exchange at the well?
- What difficulties, beyond the loss of the timber from the mast trees themselves, are imposed by the Mast Tree laws?
- How does Abe's interaction with Betty as they return to town violate the norms of their community?

#### Chapters 11-15

- What can we observe about the practice of medicine in the colonial era by Aunt Rosanna's treatment of Betty?
- When Abe and Aunt Rosanna agree to evade the Mast Tree laws, what are they risking?
- What superstitions are aroused by Betty's relationship with the raven?
- What do we learn about the means of education in this era by Aunt Rosanna's hiring of Gershom?

#### Chapters 16-20

- As Abe visits the graveyard, what insights do we get into his parents' characters?
- What does the woodcutter's comment about paying the magistrate's fine reveal about the practice of Crown authority?
- How do we see the boundaries between childhood and maturity differ from how they're seen today?

#### Chapters 21-25

- How does learning of Betty's family history change Abe's view of his relationship with her, and why?
- What can we conclude about the practice of law in the colonial era from the events that unfold with the millers' lawyer?
- As the incident with the *Resolution* is an historical fact, how does it foreshadow later events in the American Revolution?

#### Chapters 26-30

- What do we see of the role of newspapers in shaping public opinion during the colonial era?
- What spurs the rioters to open violence?
- What are the immediate consequences of the attack on the sheriff and his deputy?

#### Chapters 31-32

- How does Aunt Rosanna's story reveal her true motivations in trying to manage Abe's life?
- What do her comments about marriage traditions illustrate about the differences with today's practices?