

Discussion Questions

for

The Declaration: Tales From a Revolution - South-Carolina

Chapters 1-5

- How does the process of cleaning out an attic make the history of the American Revolution personal to Katie?
- Does Justin's attitude toward his cousin's keeping of slaves reflect the culture in which they lived?
- What would be the impact of the discovery of an outright declaration of independence dating to 1775 on our understanding of the Revolution?

Chapters 6-10

- How does the incident with the snake affect Justin's view of Terrance's humanity?
- What does the potential change in Gram's circumstances mean for her own independence?
- How does their interaction over the sheep shearing illustrate the development of the relationship between Justin and Terrance?

Chapters 11-15

- How did the misbehavior of British troops in the Carolinas undermine their effort, as seen when Justin joins the militia?
- What impact does Justin's first direct experience with fighting against the British have on him?
- How much skepticism of extraordinary discoveries is appropriate, and does Professor Schullmann exhibit proper academic rigor?

Chapters 16-20

- What does the news Justin receives of his cousin, and his visit with Jeremiah's wife tell us about the way that politics have come to affect relationships?
- How does his faith aid Justin in recovering from his breakdown?
- What contribution does Justin's growing respect for Terrance as a human being make to his decision about Terrance's fate?

Chapters 21-25

- How has the passage of time changed Justin's outlook on the Revolution?
- What does her father's injury make Katie realize about Gram?
- What parallels do you see between Katie's father and Justin?

Chapters 26-30

- Is Justin's comment about sharing enslavement with Terrance apt, or overstated?
- How does the behavior of the occupying British forces sow the seeds of their eventual defeat?
- Does Professor Shullmann's reconsideration of his claims completely resolve Katie's anger at him?

Chapters 31-33, Epilogue

- What have both the modern and Revolutionary-era families discovered matters most to them?
- How does the struggle in South Carolina contribute to the overall outcome of the Revolution?