

Discussion Questions

for

The Mine: Tales From a Revolution – Connecticut

Chapters 1-5

- How did the disposition of captured enemy officers differ from that of captured enlisted men?
- What do the conditions at the mine tell us about the standards for treatment of prisoners of war during the Revolution?
- What does Alec's motivation for joining the Loyalist militia illustrate about the range of opinions held by Colonists?
- How does the treatment of his family by the Committee of Safety affect Alec's opinions?

Chapters 6-10

- What do we learn from the reaction of the prisoners to the offer of barber services by a woman?
- What was the relative danger from disease as compared to battle for fighters during the Revolution?
- How does the disposition of Alec's friend's corpse show us about the way that Loyalist prisoners were regarded?

Chapters 11-15

- How does the incident with the coin show us the distinctions between common criminals and prisoners of war in the mine?
- What does the comment that Alec's father makes about Alec's standing among their friends say about the determination of the Loyalists?
- How does the escape plan that the new men concoct compare to prior escape attempts from the mine?

Chapters 16-20

- How does the disaster in the mine shaft give us a sense of the value placed upon prisoners' lives?
- When questioning the prisoners, how do Gad's methods compare to modern investigational standards?
- What does their flight from the prison reveal about the difficulties of travel at the time of the Revolution?

Chapters 21-26

- What do we learn from observing Miss Landry's resourcefulness during their flight from the prison?
- When Alec treats Miss Landry's injuries, what differences do we see in what he considered titillating in comparison to the present day?
- How does Miss Landry's proposed ruse reveal her true feelings for Alec?
- What does the notice at the public house tell us about the seriousness of Alec's escape?
- How do events at York-Town end up affecting Alec and Miss Landry?