

Discussion Questions

for

The Powder: Tales From a Revolution - Bermuda

Chapters 1-5

- What interest do the residents of Bermuda have in the American Revolution?
- What does Hal's part-time occupation tell us about conditions on the island?
- How does Hal's past affect the presumptions that Molly and her family make about him?
- What motivates Mister Haskins so strongly to become involved in the Revolution?

Chapters 6-10

- What does Hal's history with his father tell us about the institution of apprenticeship?
- How does the fate of the *Dolphin* illustrate the uncertainty of the prevalent occupation of Bermudans of the time?
- What does the contrast between the meal at the tavern and the one at the Haskins home tell us about the range of lifestyles?
- What do the comments about Molly's behavior tell us about the role of women in Bermudan society at the time?

Chapters 11-15

- Does Paul's story change the Haskins family's attitude toward the American Revolution?
- How does Molly's change of heart reflect Hal's standing with the Haskins family, and perhaps, in the larger community?
- What does the encounter with the guard at the powder magazine reveal about the general security of the stores there?

Chapters 16-20

- What does the gathering of unnamed but influential men to plot the raid tell us about the popularity of the governor's stance?
- How does Hal's insistence on the inclusion of the women in the oath of secrecy reflect their broader position in Bermudan society?
- What does Hal's injury and its treatment tell us about the state of medical care at the time?
- How does Hal's relationship with the Haskins family contrast with the other relationships in his life?

Chapters 21-25

- Does the cabal's insistence on nonviolence seem at odds with the act of stealing powder that has only the purpose of violence?
- How does learning about the governor's son change our perception of his motivations?
- Does the selection of a moonless night for the powder raid make sense in the conditions under which it will be conducted?
- What is the lasting impact of the Bermuda Powder Raid on the American Revolution?