

Discussion Questions for **Patriot at the River**

1. Did you know about the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution before reading this book? What stood out to you about this part of the war?
2. Benjamin Woodbridge and his sister, Elizabeth, both experienced the same losses before the start of the story. How did they handle those losses differently from each other? How did those losses affect their relationship with each other and with people around them (Kate, Alec, the Boothe family, etc.)?
3. Rane Armistead comes from a religious background that has caused some confusion in his life. What are some ways you've had to examine or rethink beliefs you grew up with?
4. Jem Flannery attempts to "make himself over," first as a Loyalist officer, then as a Patriot agent. Later, Benjamin determines to "put himself to rights" by reading more Scripture. To what extent do you think people are capable of changing themselves?
5. Kate says loving our enemies "doesn't mean letting them go on and do as they please. It's doing what's best for them, even if that means keeping them from sinning more than they have already." Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. Benjamin considers Walks-in-Winter and Selagisqua his friends, even though many people might not have trusted them. What are some ways they might have shown friendship to one another despite their different cultures?
7. Rane's past makes him cautious of trusting others. Why do you think he decided to trust Benjamin? Was it easier for him to trust some people in Sunrising than others?
8. After her step of courage in baptism, Elizabeth seems more prepared to face her fears and attempt other brave things. Have you experienced a time when taking one step of faith enabled you to overcome later challenges?
9. Families in Sunrising manage businesses and chores while their men are away at war. How do you think these challenges—and the challenge of living under occupation—would affect daily life?
10. Kate says that "if the king is breaking the law of the land and the law of God, and if good men stand up to him about it, we're dutybound to switch our loyalty over to them." Do you agree? How do you think this belief made the American Revolution different from other rebellions (such as the French Revolution or Bolshevik Rebellion)?
11. What do you think are the main themes of the story? How well are those themes explored or displayed?
12. Who is your favorite character in *Patriot at the River*? Why?

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