

English 8: *April Morning* Study Guide
Dr. McCoy

As you are reading *April Morning*, please fill out this study guide.

I. WHO? For each character, list defining characteristics. Note how some characters change during the novel.

Adam Cooper

Levi Cooper

Sarah Cooper

Moses Cooper

Granny Cooper

Cousin Simmons

Ruth Simmons

the Reverend

Solomon Chandler

the Committee

Jonas Parker

II. Where? The novel takes place in and around Lexington, Massachusetts, but there are certain specific locations mentioned in the book. Provide details about each of the locations and *include page numbers where the information is found*. What is the connection of each location to the battle taking place?

Menotomy Road:

The Smokehouse:

Ashley's Pasture:

III. When?

On what dates does the novel take place? Why is this significant to the plot? Explain.

IV. What?

What battle takes place during the novel?

Of which war is this battle a part?

V. Reading for Detail: Answer the following questions for each section of the novel.

The Afternoon (pages 3-24)

Why does Moses Cooper get angry with Adam?

What is Cousin Simmons' occupation?

What is the minimum age for being a Committeeman? Why do you think this is significant?

The Evening (pages 27-47)

What is the significance of the maize vs. flour division?

What do the pro-Samuel Adams radicals stand for?

What do the anti-Samuel Adams egalitarians stand for?

How does Moses Cooper feel about slavers?

Adam Cooper describes _____ as thinking “he deeply believed that if you could win an argument, you could win a war” (page 30).

The Night (pages 51-78)

What is Levi’s dream?

What does the rider tell the townspeople? What effect does it have on them?

How does the town muster the militia?

What kind of gun does Adam carry?

What is the significance of Moses drilling Adam about his gun?

What does Adam take with him?

The Morning (pages 81-108)

What is the Reverend’s position regarding the incoming Redcoats?

Why do the British soldiers cut the bell ropes?

In two to three sentences describe how the relationship between Adam and Moses has changed in the first few chapters.

What derogatory names do the Redcoats call the Colonists?

What happens in the smokehouse?

The Forenoon (pages 111-128)

How does meeting Solomon Chandler affect Adam Cooper? What advice does Chandler give Adam?

What does Chandler tell Adam about the British (page 120)?

How/What does Adam remember his dad? How is this different than his previous thoughts about his dad?

What happens as Adam retells the story to Cousin Dover?

What bad habit does Adam learn?

The Midday (pages 131-156)

What is the relationship between men and women expressed at the beginning of this chapter?

How does Adam think of Ruth Simmons? How is this different than Cousin Simmons sees her? Why the difference?

What happens as Adam waits?

Describe Adam's initiation to war. How does he view the Redcoats?

What did Adam learn?

How does Adam react to the dead British soldier? Why?

What happens to the wounded British soldier (page 155)? Why is this important?

The Afternoon (pages 159-187)

What types of adversities are the British facing?

Why does Adam Cooper fall asleep during the battle?

What does Adam say to Mrs. Cartwright? Why?

The Evening (pages 191-202)

Who goes with Adam to place candles on Moses Cooper's coffin? Why do they do that?

How does Adam describe his feelings about the war to Ruth (page 197)?

Why aren't things the same any more?

How might Cousin Simmons' occupation affect whether or not he goes to battle?

In two to three sentences speculate on what will happen to the Committee and Adam after the book ends.

V. For Further Consideration:

In two to three sentences describe the relationship between Adam and Grandmother. How does this differ from his relationship with his own parents?

In two to three sentences describe how the relationship between Adam and his younger brother changes.

In two to three sentences describe Moses Cooper's character. What about it is admirable? What parts are problematic to Adam? Explain.

In two to three sentences describe how Adam and Levi are alike.

In two to three sentences describe two specific ways in which the battle changes Adam.

How does Solomon Chandler change during the battle? What might this suggest about the power of war on an individual?

What do the British soldiers take from the Cooper's home? Why is this significant?

Does Adam shoot and kill anyone during the battle? Why is this significant?

How do you think the author feels about war? Explain.