

Chapter 1

- 1. What is the setting at the opening of the novel?**
- 2. From what point of view is the novel told? How do you know? Identify the narrator.**
- 3. Who is Miss Mary Finch and what has happened to her?**
- 4. Who is Mr. Robert Finch? Why has he come to Newport? What does his behavior indicate about his character?**
- 5. Why does Isabel ask Pastor Weeks if she can run ahead of the wagon carrying Miss Mary Finch? What happens? Why does this upset Isabel?**
- 6. How does Mr. Robert treat Isabel? Why?**
- 7. In a work of literature, an author may use a variety of literary devices, one of which is a simile. A simile is a comparison of two unlike things using a word of comparison such as "like" or "as." Which sentence is a simile that describes one of Mr. Robert's features?**

Chapter 2

- 1. Why does Isabel ask Pastor Weeks if he knows of a place where she and Ruth can sleep?**
- 2. How do Isabel and Ruth become the property of Mr. Robert? How does this affect Isabel?**
- 3. How does Isabel's ability to read work against her?**
- 4. What are Mr. Robert's plans for Isabel and her sister?**
- 5. Why does Pastor Weeks tell Mr. Robert that Isabel and Ruth will fetch a better price with their shoes and blankets?**
- 6. What incident does Isabel recall when she realizes that she and Ruth are to be sold? How does she compare herself to her father? What literary device does Anderson use to compare Isabel to her father?**

- chapter 3.
1. Mr. Robert tells Isabel that she can only take their shoes and blankets because nothing else belongs to them. What does Isabel decide to take as a reminder of home?

2. In a work of fiction, an author may use a variety of literary devices, one of which is symbolism. A symbol is a person, object, or event that represents a greater meaning within the text. Isabel states that she doesn't know if her mother's seeds will grow or what they might become. What might the seeds symbolize?

3. Why does Mr. Robert take Isabel and Ruth to *Sullivan's Tavern*? How is Mr. Robert's business proposition received by the proprietors of the establishment?

4. Describe the difference between Mr. Robert's treatment of Ruth and Isabel and the tavern owners' treatment of the girls.

5. What does Isabel discover about Jenny's connection to her past?

6. According to Jenny, what skill has Isabel always possessed? Why might such a skill be important to the narration of the novel?

7. What request does Isabel make of Jenny? How does Jenny respond?

8. Why does Mr. Lockton ask Mr. Robert about his loyalty to the King?

9. Why does Jenny offer to buy Ruth and Isabel?

Chapter 4

- 1. How do the Locktons, Isabel, and Ruth travel from Newport to New York? Describe Isabel and Ruth's living conditions while traveling?**
- 2. What is Isabel's mental state while sitting on the deck of the *Hartshorn*? What does the reader learn about Isabel's own beliefs and the history of her people?**

Chapter 5

- 1. Describe and explain Ruth's and Isabel's reactions when they emerge from the ship in New York.**
- 2. Why does the soldier stop the sailors from loading Madam Lockton's walnut chest onto the carriage? What is Madam Lockton's reaction?**
- 3. When Charles arrives at the dock, he is clearly upset and tells the Lockton's that they shouldn't have come back. How does this affect the tone of the scene? What does it imply with regard to the Locktons?**
- 4. How does the introduction of Mr. Bellingham alter Lockton's previous claims regarding allegiance to the King? What is M. Bellingham's major concern?**
- 5. Why does Madam Lockton threaten to remain perched on her chest at the dock?**
- 6. How do Ruth's and Isabel's reactions to Madam Lockton's behavior alter the stand-off over the chest?**

Chapter 6

- 1. Curzon runs ahead of Isabel, causing her to lose her temper. Why does Isabel apologize to Curzon for being rude?**
 - 2. What nickname does Curzon assign to Isabel?**
 - 3. What stop does Curzon make on the way to retrieve water? What does Curzon do that reveals his character?**
 - 4. What political ideas does Curzon share with Isabel on their walk? What is Isabel's reaction?**
 - 5. Isabel states that Curzon continues walking, "nattering on and on" while her "mind drifts away." Why does Isabel's mind drift away from the conversation at hand? What does this reveal about Isabel's reliability as the narrator of the story?**
 - 6. What favor does Curzon ask of Isabel? What could this do to help Isabel and Ruth? What are Isabel's main concerns?**
 - 7. When Curzon tells Isabel all she has to do is listen for talk of the King's troops, Isabel is surprised. Why would she think that anyone would reveal important information in her presence? How would Isabel be in a position to hear information that other individuals are unable to acquire?**
 - 8. Why does Isabel tell Curzon that she cannot help?**
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Chapter 7

- 1. Characterize Becky Berry.**
- 2. What does Isabel learn from Becky about her new life with the Locktons?**
- 3. As Isabel begins to prepare the house with Becky, what does she learn about the politics of servants and slaves? How does Isabel's skillful memory lead her to challenge Becky? How does Becky respond when Isabel challenges her statement of Lockton's politics?**
- 4. Who is Lady Clarissa Seymour? Why do the Locktons treat her like the Queen?**
- 5. What advice does Becky offer Isabel before departing on her errands?**

Chapter 8

- 1. What does Isabel do with the cobwebs that she gathers during her chores? What insight does this offer into both the science and the social structure of the time period?**
- 2. How does Isabel's behavior indicate her understanding of her role in the Locktons' home?**
- 3. Why has Madam Lockton decided to use Ruth as a personal maid?**
- 4. When Isabel becomes horrified and outraged that Ruth will be treated as a curiosity, Becky warns Isabel to hold her anger and take care. Why?**
- 5. Foreshadowing is a literary technique that an author employs to provide hints or clues of what is to come later in the story. What might the final line of the chapter foreshadow?**

Chapter 9

1. While vaguely aware of what is going on around her, Isabel is lost in her thoughts sharpening the knives. What are her thoughts? What might the knives symbolize?
2. Why is Isabel summoned to the parlor? How does Isabel handle herself when she sees Ruth has been crying? Why?
3. How does Madam Lockton further strip Isabel of her identity during the meeting with Seymour?
4. What is the significance of Anderson's placement of the whetstone rhyme at the scene in the parlor? How has Anderson constructed the characters and conflict in this scene to make this doubly significant at this point in the novel?
5. An *epithet* is a word or phrase used in place of a person's name based on a characteristic the individual displays. How might the epithets that Isabel assigns to the men in the library represent their characters? How does the use of the epithets alter the tone of the scene?
6. While serving the men in Mr. Lockton's library, what catches Isabel's attention?
7. When Isabel returns to the library with more food, what does she see and hear that cracks in the door?
8. How does the last line of the chapter contribute to your interest in the plot? Explain.

Chapter 10

- 1. How does Ruth respond when Isabel asks why she was crying in the parlor? What does Isabel conclude from Ruth's response?**
- 2. Why does Isabel decide to report what she has learned about the linen chest to Curzon? How does the reader know that Isabel has given her plan careful consideration?**
- 3. What happens when Isabel reaches Bellingham's building?**
- 4. After Isabel tells Curzon everything she has seen and heard, he tells her to go home and not to let anyone know that she is the informant. Why does this frighten Isabel?**

Chapter 11

- 1. Why do Isabel and Becky have a difficult day?**
- 2. Who arrives while Isabel and Becky are preparing the drawing room on the second floor? What is the purpose of their visit? How is this used against Mr. Lockton?**
- 3. What is the result of Bellingham's search of the house? What happens to Mr. Lockton?**
- 4. How do you think Isabel feels as she witnesses these events? Explain your answer.**

Chapter 12

- 1. Why does Isabel go to Lady Seymour's home? Describe the girl who answers the door.**
- 2. How does Lady Seymour respond to the news of Master Lockton's arrest?**
- 3. What surprises Isabel about Lady Seymour's behavior toward her in the kitchen?**

1. Who arrives at the Locktons' home the next morning? What can the reader infer about his appearance?
2. Describe and explain the Locktons' interaction with one another following Mas's arrival home. Is such behavior unusual for the couple?
3. A *scapegoat* is a literary term for a character that bears other characters' blame, even though she does not deserve it. Provide an example from chapter 13 that would support the claim that Isabel is a scapegoat in the novel.
4. What is Isabel's favorite part of her day? Why?
5. Why does Curzon call the pump operator "Grandfather?" What might that name suggest about the operator?
6. Isabel does not understand why Mr. Lockton is not in jail and she has not been set free. What does she learn from Curzon?
7. Why does Isabel take the book from the library? What is the name of the book? Why do you think Curzon and Anderson have chosen this book for Isabel to read?
8. How does Isabel feel when she plants her mother's seeds?

Chapter 14

- 1. Why does Madam Lockton instruct Isabel to serve Master Lockton and his companions when he has given strict orders not to be disturbed?**
 - 2. How does Master Lockton react to the interruption? Why do you believe Master Lockton is being so secretive about the meeting?**
 - 3. How does the conversation in Master Lockton's library highlight the difference between Isabel's social status and the Locktons' social status?**
 - 4. The men in Lockton's study compare the rebellion to a vine. Do you feel the comparison is an appropriate one? Explain your answer.**
 - 5. What shocking plan does the mayor propose? How does Lockton respond?**
 - 6. How does Isabel demonstrate her cleverness at the end of the chapter?**
 - 7. What causes Isabel to drop the bottle of wine at the end of the chapter?**
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Chapter 15

- 1. What does Madam Lockton believe is the cause of Ruth's seizure? How does Master Lockton's reaction to the situation compare to Madam Lockton's?**
- 2. Do you think Isabel is reassured by Becky's words at the end of the chapter? Explain your answer.**

Chapter 16

- 1. Isabel believes that the only way she can protect Ruth is to get her out of the city and away from Madam Lockton. What does Isabel decide to do? Why?**
- 2. What is Colonel Regan's response when Isabel offers evidence identifying the traitors in exchange for safe passage for her and Ruth to Rhode Island?**
- 3. How do Colonel Regan and his men react to the list of names?**
- 4. Why is Isabel instructed to return the list to Master Lockton's desk?**
- 5. What does Colonel Regan ask Isabel to do, and what does he agree to do in return?**

Chapter 17

1. Describe Isabel's state of mind over the next two days. Explain the meaning of Isabel's comparison of her torment to "bees darting in and out of my sight, daring me to swat at them."
2. Who arrives at the Locktons' kitchen door? Why? Describe how the visitor's appearance indicates his state of mind.
3. Why do the Locktons argue? What is the result?
4. In what manner does Lockton depart? Why?
5. Why does Isabel offer to fetch Lady Seymour after Lockton's departure? What happens?
6. What news does Becky share with Madam Lockton regarding Master Lockton and the discovery of the Loyalist plot?

Chapter 18

- 1. What event does Becky encourage Isabel to attend? Why does Isabel decide to go?**
- 2. What is the tone of the hanging? To what event does Isabel compare the hanging?**
- 3. Isabel is surprised when Curzon approaches her in the crowd gathered to witness the hanging. What interesting detail does Isabel discover when Curzon tosses her his hat?**
- 4. What is the central question that Isabel has for Curzon? How does Curzon respond?**

Name _____ Date _____

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

of pages _____

Main Characters _____

Setting _____

Introduction - How does the book begin?

Explain how Isabel's thoughts and actions as well as other characters' treatment toward her develop her as a character.

What is the theme of the book?

Explain the significance of the title.

What internal and external conflicts does Isabel face?

During which historical era does the story take place?

How does the book end?

What was your favorite part of the book?

Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?
