

From the Author's Desk:

Hello Parents and Teachers! Thank you for sharing "Five Smooth Stones" with your readers. It's the first in Hope's Revolutionary War Diary series. I hope this discussion guide will help them reflect on the story and enjoy it on a deeper level. I've added a recipe, a few random activities, and some tidbits about my research that might be fun for them.

*My very best,
Kristi*

Five Smooth Stones:

About this book: Nine-year-old Hope's diary begins in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1776. As tensions rise between the Tories and Patriots, her life becomes more and more confusing. She wonders if she will ever see Papa again. Her 13-year-old brother Ethan has proclaimed that he is a Tory and has left home. Will Hope's family ever be reunited? Or will the Revolutionary War bring them grief and permanent separation? Ages 7 to 10.

ISBN 9781515320562

Discussion ideas:

<> Part I:

1. What do you think about Hope's teacher and how he tried to keep his students in line?
2. What does dunce mean? How is a child's punishment in school in 1776 different than today?
3. Compare your classroom with Hope's and Polly's.
4. Explain the difference between a Patriot and a Tory.

<> Part I

1. What did it mean when the Quakers "read out" Miss Sarah and Robert Dean? What do you think about this?
2. A ship's arrival from across the Atlantic was an exciting event. Describe some of the cargo that was unloaded at the dock and voyagers who came to shore.
3. What are some happy events Hope wrote about in her diary? Explain some of her disappointments.
4. The Potter family had three barrels of apples in their cellar that they did not pay for. What does it mean that they "gleaned them from an orchard outside of town?"

Activity suggestions:

<> Write - These can be a brief paragraph or several pages:

1. "If I lived during 1776 I would hang a wooden sign over my front door, saying ..."
2. What the Declaration of Independence means to you
3. A note to a friend

<> **Draw**

1. A sailing ship at the dock in Philadelphia
2. A dunce cap
3. A seagull or a cat

<> **Make**

1. Diorama of Baker Street with the various shoppes
2. A box or pouch to safe-keep something you treasure

<> **Read** - Hope's Revolutionary War Diary #2: We Are Patriots
ISBN 9781515320937

<> **Cook**

Hope's Berry Tarts - Hope helped her family by baking small tarts to sell at the market. She would have mixed her own dough, rolled it out on the table then formed the dough into small cups. After filling with berries from her summer garden, she would have topped the tarts with another crust so they wouldn't spill in her basket. Here's a similar, but quicker recipe:

Ingredients:

- 12 (4 inch) prepared tart shells, baked according to directions on package
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- 1 pinch salt
- 2 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup apple juice
- 3 cups fresh or frozen blueberries or sliced strawberries (or mixture of both)

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1. In a pot blend the sugar, cornstarch & salt then add the apple juice. Cook over a medium heat, stirring constantly until smooth and thick. This makes the glaze. Allow it to cool for 10 minutes.
2. Meanwhile arrange the pastry shells in a muffin tin or on a cookie sheet.
3. Spread a bit of glaze over the bottoms of the shells.
4. Arrange the berries into each tart.
5. Spoon remaining glaze over the berries until they're covered. Chill for 2 to 4 hours.

**Behind the scenes of this story:**

When researching the Revolutionary War I made several trips to Pennsylvania. My teenage sons and I toured Betsy Ross's house, which inspired my descriptions for Hope's and Miss Sarah's homes. We walked cobblestone alleys and streets of old Philadelphia, following a map from 1776. I picked the name Hope as a symbol for our new country.

**A secret about the author:**

At Christ Church, founded in 1695, we sat in the pew that George Washington had occupied when in Philadelphia. I was very moved looking at the high windows and aged walls, and wondered what our first president might have prayed for.

**Contact:** I would love to hear about your discussion. Just click the Contact button on my website, kristianagregory.com, and I'll answer you!