

## **From the Author's Desk:**

*Hello Parents and Teachers! Thank you for sharing "We Are Patriots" with your readers. It's the second 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 cookie recipe, some activities, and personal tidbits that might be fun for them.*

*Cheers,  
Kristi*

## **We Are Patriots:**

**About this book:** It's 1777, Hope Penny Potter is now ten-years old, and the Revolutionary War still rages near Philadelphia. Her papa and brother briefly return, but when she discovers that Papa has joined the Sons of Liberty, she fears they will all be in grave danger. Even worse however, the British army has invaded the city and Hope's family is forced to quarter enemy soldiers.

Ages 7 to 10.

ISBN 9781515320937

### **Discussion ideas:**

#### **<> Part I:**

1. What does it mean when Hope's neighbors hang a red ribbon on their door?
2. What is a turncoat?
3. Explain why the Sons of Liberty dumped British tea into Boston's harbor.
4. Name some of the things Hope reads to keep her mind active, and to stay informed.

#### **<> Part II:**

1. The Patriots were fighting for liberty and an ideal. What were the Redcoats fighting for?
2. Why does Hope decide to be kind to enemy soldiers in her home?
3. Describe the various clothing Hope sees the American soldiers wearing. What is one thing these different men have in common?
4. Tell some of the ways Hope helps her family.

### **Activity suggestions:**

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

1. "If I could give myself a nickname it would be ... "
2. A poem about a pet or an animal you like
3. About a special friendship

<> **Draw**

1. A view from Hope's attic window
2. An American flag with thirteen stars
3. A British soldier

<> **Make**

1. Diorama of Hope's attic bedroom
2. A small diary by sewing or stapling pages together

<> **Read** - Hope's Revolutionary War Diary #3: When Freedom Comes  
ISBN 9781515323037

<> **Cook**

**Hope's Molasses Cookies for the Dressmaker** - The dressmaker provided a safe place for Hope and her friend Polly to secretly exchange notes. Hope shows her gratitude by bringing her neighbor these fresh baked cookies "packed into a clean cloth."

Ingredients:

- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 3/4 cup shortening
- 1 egg
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- [3 tablespoons sugar in a small bowl -- save until last]

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1. Heat oven to 325°F. In a big sturdy bowl, beat brown sugar, shortening, molasses & egg until smooth. Now stir in the soda, spices & salt.
2. With a tablespoon, shape the dough into 1 1/2-inch balls and place on ungreased cookie sheet about 2 inches apart.
3. This step isn't necessary, but Hope liked to press a fork onto each cookie to make a design, then she sprinkled sugar on top.
4. Bake 13 to 16 minutes or until cookies appear set and dry. Remove to cooling rack.

**Behind the scenes of this story:**

When I visited Valley Forge in the winter I stood in the snow, wondering about life during the war. The freezing weather helped me picture a crowded stone house with Hope's young cousins and relatives trying to stay warm and safe. All my stories have either a cat or a friendly dog that sits on a character's foot.

**A secret about the author:**

I love exploring gift shops at historic sites! When in Philadelphia I bought some trinkets for inspiration: a little ceramic ink jug with a quill pen, and a Betsy Ross flag with thirteen stars. These souvenirs sit on my desk.

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