

From the Author's Desk:

Hello Parents and Teachers! Thank you for sharing "When Freedom Comes" with your readers. It's the third 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 shortbread recipe, a few random activities, and personal tidbits that might be fun for them.

*All the best,
Kristi*

When Freedom Comes:

About this book: Hope's third and final diary. Now eleven-years old, she continues to bravely face the turmoil and violence of the Revolutionary War. Enemy soldiers occupy Philadelphia and several still live with her family. Though the emerging nation's future is uncertain, Hope remains optimistic and brave, and she continues to pray for the safe return of her father and brother.

Ages 7 to 10.

ISBN 9781515323037

Discussion ideas:

<> Part I:

1. Explain two purposes of a Bounty Shirt.
2. All who live on Bread Street are bakers except for one neighbor: Who is he and what is his occupation?
3. Why is Hope so upset about Auntie Hannie selling bread to the British?
4. What do you think about Lucy going to the wigmaker to cut her hair?

<> Part II:

1. What act of kindness makes Hope the happiest she's been "in a very long time"?
2. Explain what Hessian soldiers do, and why.
3. What does Hope mean when she says, "Our captured soldiers are not the only ones in prison?"
4. Redcoats pray that King George will win, but Patriots pray *they* will win. Hope says, "Who does God listen to?" What do you think?

Activity suggestions:

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

1. "If I could apprentice for a job or craft it would be ..."
2. Describe some of the games Hope plays with her little sister.
3. Tell about your favorite thing to do on the Fourth of July.

<> **Draw**

1. Hope's view as she walks to the harbor
2. The clothing colonial boys or girls wore
3. British ships coming up the Delaware River

<> **Make**

1. An outdoor game with chalk, such as hopscotch
2. A kite

<> **Read** - *The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart; Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 1777*, and its sequel, *Cannons at Dawn: The Second Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart; Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 1779*.

<> **Cook**

Hope's Friendly Shortbread -- Hope learned to bake shortbread from Mama, who brought the recipe with her from England. The recipe is simple and calls for just three ingredients, which were always had on hand in their friendly bakery. It was a small taste of heaven to dip a piece of crispy shortbread into a cup of hot tea.

Ingredients:

1 cup soft butter

1/2 cup sugar

1/8 cup sugar (for sprinkling on top before baking)

2 1/2 cups flour

~~~~~

1. Preheat oven to 300°.
2. Cream together butter and 1/2 cup sugar.
3. Add flour then mix until texture is a bit sticky, like clay.
4. Press dough into ungreased 9x13-inch pan, prick all over with a fork, then sprinkle the remaining sugar on top.
5. Bake for about 40-45 minutes (till very lightly browned--just golden around the edges).
6. Let stand for 5 minutes, then cut into 24 squares while warm.
7. Leave in pan until completely cooled because it won't be crisp until then.

~~~~~

Hope enjoyed serving her shortbread with tea ("not from England"). First she'd "hot the pot" by pouring a bit of steaming water into her teapot until it warmed up. Then she poured *that* water into teacups. While the cups warmed up, she added herbs or loose tea to her pot then poured in boiling water to let it steep.

Behind the scenes of this story:

I loved exploring old Philadelphia, especially Betsy Ross's house where she had sewn our first American flag. It's a narrow, three-story brick home on Arch Street; the small rooms and colonial furnishings inspired my descriptions of the Potter home.

Hope's relatives, Abigail and Lucy, are characters in *The Winter of Red Snow*, another Revolutionary War diary for older readers.

A secret about the author:

When I visited Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed, it was a hot summer day with high humidity. I remembered reading about those weeks in 1777 when delegates argued and debated and suffered from the heat, some tumbling out of the building, still fighting from frustration and stress. The enormity of their courage, to stand up to the King of England, put a lump in my throat.

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