

BOOK TITLE: *Johnny Tremain*

AUTHOR: Esther Forbes

POINT OF VIEW: 3rd person omniscient

SETTING:

Revolutionary-era
Boston, 1773, two
years before the
Battles of
Lexington and
Concord

CHARACTERS:

Protagonist: Johnny Tremain

14 y.o. silversmith apprentice;
talented, arrogant, quick
tempered, impulsive, overly
confident

Antagonists: Although Dove
and Merchant Lyte cause
problems, Johnny is his own
main antagonist. His poor
character is really the source
of his troubles.

Others:

Cilla: Johnny's intended
fiancee

Rab: Johnny's most beloved
friend and role model
The Laphams, Lytes, Dr.
Warren, Dove, and Goblin the
horse

Plot Stage 3

Climax: On the eve of the Battle of Lexington, the Lytes, who are Tories, flee to England, but first agree that Johnny deserves some of the family property. At the Battle of Lexington, Rab is mortally wounded.

Plot Stage 2

Conflict, Rising Action: The **Conflict** is introduced: **Will Johnny ever be able to overcome his handicap and achieve his life goals?** With his injury, Johnny can no longer work as an apprentice. In the **Rising Action**, Johnny is his own worst enemy, as he blames others for his predicament and feels sorry for himself. He looks for work and meets Rab, who involves him in the Revolutionary movement. He tries to get help from his relatives, the Lytes, and is accused of stealing. Things go from bad to worse for Johnny, but he starts to see a larger purpose in life (Cilla, the Revolution) instead of just thinking of himself. He becomes a spy for the Revolution because he can't shoot a musket due to his injury.

Plot Stage 4

Denouement: Rab gives Johnny his musket so he can take Rab's place. Dr. Warren sees that he can restore Johnny's function of his hand with a simple surgical procedure.

Plot Stage 5

Conclusion: The story closes as Johnny agrees to the surgery so that he can carry on the fight. His future as a silversmith is still questionable, but the use of his hand to fire a musket is assured.

Plot Stage 1

Exposition: Johnny Tremain is the main apprentice for Mr. Lapham. He has an important place in the Lapham household because of his talent. He is to marry Cilla, and help save the family financially. He "rules the roost" and the other apprentices. Overly confident of his abilities, he volunteers to remake a fancy silver sugar basin for John Hancock, even though Mr. Lapham is reluctant to accept the job. While Johnny is working on the basin, Dove, another apprentice, causes Johnny to be seriously burned.



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THEMES

Growing up/Coming of Age

Arrogance vs. Self-Respect

CONFLICT

Man vs. Himself

Will Johnny be able to overcome his physical and character
handicaps to have a fulfilling life?