

Monday – Read Aloud

Lydia’s Journey

The knock sounded again, loud and insistent. Lydia Darragh drew in a breath and opened the door to the tall Redcoat. “What may I do for you?” she asked in a **formal** tone.

The officer shoved a scroll into Lydia’s hand and barked out his orders. “In the name of King George, this residence must be cleared immediately so that it may serve as quarters for His Majesty’s Royal Army.”

It was just as Lydia feared ever since the Redcoats had marched into Philadelphia, claiming the city as their own. It made Lydia flush with anger just to think about that **legendary** September day of 1777, when **foes** of their **revolution** came to occupy her city. Why, mere days ago, British General John Howe had evicted her neighbor from his home across the street. Now, it served as Howe’s command post.

After the officer took his leave, Lydia shut the door. Her two eldest children **plunged** down the stairs, clutching her skirts as they **gushed** out frightened questions. She tried her best to calm them—thankful that their two younger siblings had already been sent to live with relatives. Enough was enough. Lydia gathered her coat—and her courage. She would go see General Howe himself to plead her case.

The moment she stepped into the street, Lydia encountered a British soldier dressed in bright, **magnificent** red, **shimmering** black boots.

It was actually her cousin, an Irish man named Captain Barrington. With his help, an arrangement was struck: The Darraghs could remain in their home if officers could use one room for **strategy** meetings. The Darraghs were Quakers who were committed to peace. Surely, they could be trusted to stay out of the way.

As the days came and went, so did the officers. Then, on the night of December 2, the British arrived late, giving Lydia an unusual request. Her family must be asleep by 8 p.m. so that top British officers could meet. Lydia knew something vital was afoot. So when the men had settled behind closed doors, Lydia hid in a linen closet next to the meeting room. She heard voices rise and fall on a wave of urgency. The news was alarming: the British would mount a surprise attack on General Washington’s troops.

As the details came into focus, Lydia returned to her room, where she lay awake, hatching a plan. The next morning, she told her family that she must travel to a mill some distance away to purchase flour. Then, carrying an empty sack, she set out on foot. Once the British were far behind, Lydia made her way through the snow toward Washington’s camp. Encountering a friendly officer, she advised him of the impending attack.

Now, alone with her secret, she awaited the consequences of her actions. When Lydia spied the Redcoats marching back to Philadelphia, it was with the gloomy air of **retreat**. The word was spreading: their surprise attack had been foiled.

Monday – “They Called Her Molly Pitcher” (pg. 392-403)

1. Part A

How did Molly Hays come to be known as Molly Pitcher?

- A. Because she threw things on the battlefield.
- B. Because she was very good at framing things.
- C. Because she brought pitchers of water.
- D. Because it was a short way to say her name.

Part B

Which part of the text supports the answer to part A?

- A. The soldiers shortened her name to that because her name was too long.
- B. The soldiers asked her to bring a pitcher of water so often, they just started shortened it.
- C. Molly would throw thing on the battlefield to confuse the soldiers.
- D. Molly had a framing business before the war started.

Tuesday – “They Called Her Molly Pitcher” (pg. 392-403)

2. Part A

What does the word “ramrod” mean as used on pg. 401?

- A. To ram a rod in the ground
- B. To sit up
- C. To straighten up
- D. A long metal rod

Part B

Which of the following context clues helped you to determine the definition in part A?

- A. shove ... into a big gun
- B. run and shove
- C. take a deep breath
- D. with a much force as possible

Wednesday – “A Spy for Freedom” (pg. 408-410)

3. What does the Redcoat officer mean by “The walls must have ears”?

- A. There’s a bug in the room.
- B. He thinks there’s an animal head on the wall from a hunting trip.
- C. He thinks a spy has overheard their conversation.
- D. He wants her to listen to someone’s conversation and get information.

Monday - Writing Prompt

Prompt: What impression of Molly Pitcher is created by her actions in the first part of the story?

Tuesday - Writing Prompt

Prompt: What do Molly's actions in the story add to your understanding of her character?

Wednesday - Writing Prompt

Prompt: Who is the narrator? How does the narrator influence the way the story is told?