

Journal Prompts

Chapters 9--18

Chapter 9

1. Annie helped Susannah prepare food for the Cherokee. Have you worked with adults to complete an important task? Describe the job. How did you feel when you were finished? How did you feel about the adults you worked with?
2. Isaiah made a bad decision and he must now accept the consequences. Tell about a time when you made a decision that resulted in unhappy consequences. Who else was affected by your poor judgment?

Chapter 10

1. Once aboard The Sinon, Abraham had trouble finding his “sea legs”. Have you ever been aboard a boat? Describe the boat and how you felt as you rode across the water. Use lots of descriptive words.
2. Miriam Hall convinced Abraham to help her even though he really didn’t want to. Have you ever been talked into doing something that you really didn’t want to do? How were you convinced? What happened?

Chapter 11

1. Some historians think that Abraham Lincoln was superstitious. What superstitions have you heard of? Do you believe in them?
2. An oracle is supposed to be able to tell the future. What would you like to know about your future? Is there anything you would not want to know? Tell why.

Chapter 12

1. Willie Hall has a scar on his thumb that he got as a punishment and to remind him of his crime. Do you have any scars? Tell how you got your scar. Does it remind you of anything?
2. Willie believes that his gang has deserted him and he is very lonely. Have you ever lost a friend? Tell what happened. How did you feel?

Chapter 13

1. Willie took one look at his lawyer and decided that Abraham Lincoln would never get him out of jail. People are being judged by their

- appearance all the time, especially celebrities. Which is more important to you: being smart or being good-looking? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Abraham was working hard to defend Willie in court, but he still wasn't sure that he could win the case. His friend Clayton reminds him that a person can only do his best. Tell about a time when you really did your best, but you still weren't happy with the results. How did you feel? What did your parents say?

Chapter 14

1. In this chapter, Gray Hawk puts the needs of the Cherokee ahead of his own. This is one quality of a great leader. What are some other traits that make someone a great leader? Who are some great leaders in the world today?
2. Even though John and Annie were from very different backgrounds, they became friends very quickly. What qualities do you like most in your friends? Do you think people should choose their friends because of the color of their skin?

Chapter 15

1. John teaches Annie an old Cherokee game called "sticks". What are some games that you play with your friends? Which is your favorite? Why?
2. Sometimes a person will help his friend just by listening to his problems. Tell about a time when you were a good listener for your friend. How do you know that you helped him?

Chapter 16

1. Tell about a time when someone had to give you bad news. What did they tell you? How did you react?
2. John promises to do whatever he can to help Annie. Who is your best friend? Tell about ways that you help each other.

Chapter 17

1. John and Annie invented Gideon sticks to help them rescue Isaiah. What do you think is the thing ever invented? Tell why you think it is the best invention.

2. John plays his flute to make The People feel better. Do you like to listen to music when you're not feeling well? What kind of music do you like best? Why?

Chapter 18

1. John and Annie were frightened when they got to the Cooper plantation, but they kept to their plan to free Isaiah. Tell about a time when you were afraid, but did what you had to do anyway. How did you feel?
2. John smeared soot on his face to honor the memory of his grandfather. What do people today do to honor those who have died, e.g., soldiers, firemen, police officers, etc.?