

Lost in Boston

By Jane R. Wood

Discussion Questions with a focus on Standards

Chapter 1 – Going to Boston

Explain why Jennifer Johnson plans family trips to historic locations.

Chapter 2 – Fasten Your Seat Belts

Drawing inferences from the text, do you think Joey and Bobby liked the book *Johnny Tremain*? Support your opinion with quotes and specific details from the text.

Explain why you think the author talks about how young people were able to spy on the British soldiers when they were occupying Boston in the 1700s.

If you have read *Johnny Tremain*, compare and contrast it to *Lost in Boston*.

Chapter 3 – Tunnels and Traffic

Using print and digital sources, show how you can learn about things to do and see in a city you plan to visit it.

Chapter 4 – It’s All Relative

Based on the text, contrast how things are different between Florida and New England.

Chapter 5 – Ducks and Swans

Why do you think the Boston Public Garden has placed statues of brass ducklings in the park?

Chapter 6 – Old Granary Burying Ground

Explain in writing the advantages of taking a bus tour of a city you are visiting for the first time.

Chapter 7 – “Old Ironsides”

Discuss with others whether it’s good that women can apply for jobs that used to be only offered only to men.

Do you think it is important for ships like the USS *Constitution* be preserved so people can visit them? Support your ideas with details.

Chapter 8 – Back to the Present

In a written opinion piece, state if you think it’s fair for some communities to prohibit people to make changes to the outside of any historic buildings they own. Support your point of view with reasons and information.

Chapter 9- Dozens of Cousins

Explain why you think people like to keep photos of family members who lived long ago.

Chapter 10 – Saturday Surprises

Summarize the advantages of taking a subway in a busy city.

Chapter 11 – The North End

Based on historical events, explain some of the reasons the colonists were upset with the king of England in the 1700s.

Explain why you think the battle at Concord Bridge between the colonists and the British soldiers is known as “the shot heard round the world.”

The Patriots motto was “No Taxation without Representation” because of the hardships it placed on the colonists. Using information from several texts, write or speak about why the colonists had that as their rallying cry.

Chapter 12 – Pizza and Paul Revere

In Chapter 12, Jennifer Johnson recites the beginning of the famous poem, “Paul Revere’s Ride.” Do you think that adding a poem to this fiction book contributes to the theme of the story?

Compare and contrast the differences between Paul Revere’s account of the events of April 15, 1775, <http://www.paul-revere-heritage.com/ride-account-modernized.html> with the poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, <http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/paul-reveres-ride>.

Chapter 13 – The Old North Church

Lanterns were hung in the steeple of the Old North Church to send an important message to the Patriots on the other side of the Charles River.

Can you recall other ways that people have communicated across distances before they had cell phones and computers?

Chapter 14 – Chaos in the Gift Shop

Bobby reacted very quickly by running after Josh and his uncle after the incident in the gift shop. In your opinion, do you think Bobby was being brave or stupid?

Explain how several previous chapters led up to this scene.

Chapter 15 – Bobby to the rescue

Analyze why you think Joey was eager to chase after Bobby.

Chapter 16 –Copp’s and Cops

Discuss whether Josh should have told his mother about his uncle’s behavior before the theft.

Chapter 17 – Copp’s Hill Burying Ground

Explain whether you think it’s important to maintain historic cemeteries, using facts and details as support of your ideas.

Chapter 18 – Cannoli for Everyone!

Explain why you think immigrants like to live close to each other in neighborhoods. Recall some foods from other countries, like cannoli, that you have eaten.

Chapter 19 – Harvard Yard

Describe some other traditions associated with certain places, like the one with the Johnston Gate at Harvard University.

Chapter 20 – Family Values

Kristina’s family likes to make the flower arrangements for the family wedding receptions. Recall some traditions that your family has.

Sarah tells Joey “the first time is always the hardest” when you do something new. Explain in a written narrative stating whether you agree or disagree with Sarah, basing your opinion on specific experiences.

Chapter 21 – Baseball and Barby

Have you ever visited a professional sports game, like baseball or football? Describe your impressions of the place, the event, and the people who were there using specific details.

Chapter 22 – A Day at Fenway

Explain why they call the left field wall in Fenway Park the Green Monster.

Chapters 23 and 24 – Saying Good-bye and Home Again

Do you think Joey will visit Boston again someday? Explain your opinion in writing, using evidence from the text.

Additional activities reinforcing Standards:

Create a timeline to show the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence.

Identify and locate the original thirteen colonies on a map of North America.

For a fun activity:

Write a narrative about what it was like to be on the ride with Paul Revere on April 15, 1775, from the perspective of the borrowed horse.