



TEACHER'S PET PUBLICATIONS

LitPlan Teacher Pack™

for

Across Five Aprils

based on the book by

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Across Five Aprils
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SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *Across Five Aprils*

Chapter 1

1. Describe Ellen.
2. Identify Jethro.
3. What kinds of things were troubling the adult world on that April morning?
4. Identify Jenny.
5. Who is Shadrach Yale?
6. How did Tom and Eb feel about the prospects of war?
7. What had happened to Jethro's sister, Mary?
8. To whom did Jethro compare his father? Why?
9. Who was Nancy?
10. Identify Bill.
11. Identify Wilse Graham.

Chapter 2

1. Why was Ellen particularly happy to see Cousin Wilse?
2. How did Wilse feel about slavery and the possibility of war?
3. How did Jethro's feelings towards war change after listening to the conversation among the men?
4. What news did Shadrach bring?

Chapter 3

1. What happened on Saturday and Sunday nights in southern Illinois?
2. What effect did the Confederate victories at Bull Run and Ball's Bluff have on the Northerners?
3. Why was the battle of Wilson's Creek a scare to the Creightons?
4. How did Bill comfort Jethro in the middle of the night?
5. What about Pa and John angered Bill?
6. What did Jethro do at Walnut Hill when he was little?
7. Why was Bill's face bruised?
8. Why did Bill have to leave?

Chapter 4

1. At what point did the Union begin to win more battles?
2. Why did Ellen give the letter to Jethro?
3. What did Tom's letter say?
4. Why was Jenny upset about the war?
5. Why did Jethro go to Shad's house?
6. How did Shad make Jethro understand the war?
7. What were Jethro's thoughts as he fell to sleep?

ANSWER KEY: SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *Across Five Aprils*

Chapter 1

1. Describe Ellen.

Ellen was a hard-working woman who did not miss or value her long-lost beauty. She had borne twelve children and had survived through thirty years of sickness and poverty.

2. Identify Jethro.

Jethro is Ellen's nine year-old son, the youngest of twelve children. Being the youngest, because he had survived through the illness which had claimed the lives of several of his siblings, and because he showed some special talents, he was indulged more than the other children were.

3. What kinds of things were troubling the adult world on that April morning?

The adults were troubled by chinch bugs, grasshoppers, drought, elections, slavery, secession, and talk of war.

4. Identify Jenny.

Jenny is Ellen's fourteen-year-old daughter who helps with the cooking and other household work. She is in love with Shadrach Yale.

5. Who is Shadrach Yale?

He is the school teacher. He is very close to the Creighton family, is in love with Jenny, and sees great promise in Jethro.

6. How did Tom and Eb feel about the prospects of war?

They thought it was exciting; they were looking forward to getting the war underway and joining up in the military to fight for the South.

7. What had happened to Jethro's sister, Mary?

She had been at a dance when some uninvited guests arrived and the party became dangerous. She and her friend left, but they were followed by Travis Burdow. Rob had tried to get to a safe place, but Travis Burdow had fired a shot and scared the horses. The wagon flipped over, killing Mary.

8. To whom did Jethro compare his father? Why?

He compared his father to Abe Lincoln because neither of them wanted bloodshed. His father argued against hanging Travis Burdow and Mr. Lincoln wouldn't call for war.

9. Who was Nancy?

Nancy was Jethro's sister-in-law. She married his brother, John. She was very quiet because her own relatives had treated her so badly. Her quiet ways made it difficult for her to become close to John's family.

10. Identify Bill.

Bill was Jethro's favorite brother. He was considered peculiar by most people because he liked to read and cared very little for "masculine" things like wrestling. He was a strong worker, though, and everyone liked him. Bill and John were very close brothers.

11. Identify Wilse Graham.

Witse Graham was Ellen's nephew from Kentucky. During his short visit he got into an argument with the family about the upcoming war. He brought to the surface everyone's true feelings about the North and the South.

Chapter 2

1. Why was Ellen particularly happy to see Cousin Witse?

He brought news of her family in Kentucky.

2. How did Witse feel about slavery and the possibility of war?

He felt that the north was wrong. He believed that slavery was tolerable and that the north had become arrogant toward the south.

3. How did Jethro's feelings towards war change after listening to the conversation among the men?

He became troubled by war. Although the prospect of glorious war once excited his imagination, he began to fear what war would bring.

4. What news did Shadrach bring?

He brought news that the Confederates had fired on Fort Sumter. The war had begun even though Congress had not officially declared it.

Chapter 3

1. What happened on Saturday and Sunday nights in southern Illinois?

The weekend evenings became like the Fourth of July with brass bands, speakers, and picnics.

2. What effect did the Confederate victories at Bull Run and Ball's Bluff have on the Northerners?

They began to understand that a victory for the North would not come as easily as they had thought it would.

3. Why was the battle of Wilson's Creek a scare to the Creightons?

The battle had been close to home, and the Union had lost.

4. How did Bill comfort Jethro in the middle of the night?

Bill told Jethro that everyone was scared at times and that being scared was nothing to be ashamed of.