Fever 1793

“The plot rages like the epidemic itself.”
—The New York Times Book Review
Chapter Questions

Chapters 1-5
1. Where does Matilda live?
2. What business does Matilda’s family own?
3. Who is Silas?
4. What historical event sparked an increase in Matilda’s family business?
5. What happened to Matilda’s father?
6. Who is King George?
7. Eliza is a black woman living freely. Explain how she is treated in society and how she was able to earn her freedom.
8. What future does Matilda dream of for herself?
9. Why doesn’t Polly show up for work?
10. Describe the atmosphere of Matilda’s family business in the afternoon.
11. What rumor is circulating through the city?
12. Why is Matilda’s mother thinking of sending her to live with a family friend in the country?
13. How does Matilda’s mother feel about the boy Matilda has a crush on?
14. Aside from telling the time, why do the church bells ring?
15. How is the community dealing with the many deaths that have been occurring?
VOCABULARY Chapters 1-5 *Fever 1793*

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Instead he jumped on Mother’s quilt and prepared to pick apart his breakfast. Mother’s best quilt. Mother abhorred mice.

2. I could see the masts of the ships tied up at the wharves on the Delaware River.

3. If not for Eliza’s fine victuals, and the hungry customers who paid to eat them, we’d have been in the streets long ago.

4. “I bet she’s dawdling by the forge,” I said, “watching Matthew work with his shirt collar open.”

5. He tried to instill some military training in me.

6. It’s the source of a deadly miasma, a foul stench, indeed.

7. Mary Shewall died soon after of a bilious fever, and one could hardly fault her character.

8. And do not let me hear of you loitering shamelessly in front of the Peale house.

9. He snatched an apple from my basket and took a bite. The impudence.

10. I would fish like a lady, with good posture and a demure manner.
**Fever 1793 Vocabulary Worksheet Chapters 1-5 Continued**

**Part II: Determining the Meaning**

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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<td></td>
<td>1. abhorred</td>
<td>A. the workshop of a blacksmith</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. wharves</td>
<td>B. extremely unpleasant or distasteful in regards to sickness</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Victuals</td>
<td>C. landing places where ships may tie up and load or unload</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. forge</td>
<td>D. poisonous fumes or germs polluting the atmosphere</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5. instill</td>
<td>E. lingering aimlessly; hanging about with no purpose</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6. miasma</td>
<td>F. shy, modest, coy, or reserved</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7. bilious</td>
<td>G. detested utterly; loathed; hated</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8. loitering</td>
<td>H. the quality of being offensively bold; nerve; rudeness</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9. impudence</td>
<td>I. to gradually put something into someone’s mind or feelings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10. demure</td>
<td>J. food fit for humans to eat</td>
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Chapters 6-10

1. Matilda’s family earns extra profits from the coffeehouse in August, but no one can agree on how to spend it. Discuss the opinions of all three family members on how the money should be spent.

2. Matilda’s grandfather refuses to believe that the deaths are related to yellow fever. What does he blame for the weird sickness circulating through the city?

3. Matilda’s mother and grandfather have different views regarding the spread of a fever. What does Matilda’s mother want to do? What does her grandfather want to do?

4. What grand idea does Matilda have to get more business at the coffeehouse?

5. Why is Matilda’s mother so eager to have tea with Mrs. Ogilvie?

6. How do the Ogilvie daughters regard Matilda?

7. Describe the differences in lower, middle, and upper-class people in Matilda’s city.

8. Matilda starts to think that maybe going to live on a farm in the country wouldn’t be that bad after all. What prompts her to change her mind?

9. What do Matilda and her grandfather encounter on their walk home from the printer?

10. What symptoms of illness does Matilda’s mother have?

11. Why does Matilda’s mother yell at her to leave?

12. Once the doctor diagnosis Matilda’s mother with yellow fever, what method of treatment does he try?

13. Matilda’s grandfather has finally decided it is time to flee the city to get away from the spread of yellow fever. Why can’t Matilda’s mother travel with them?

14. What package does Matilda receive?

15. How is Matilda’s grandfather dressed when they leave the city?
Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.


2. “I’ll tend to this matter, Ladies…Don’t bestir yourselves.”

3. As soon as I conceded defeat, Mother turned her attention to the most important issue.

4. He prohibits French, no matter how much I implore him.

5. Eliza harrumphed and set the pudding over the fire.

6. Grandfather says this trouble will soon be over. He says people don’t have gumption anymore.

7. Men who stood unafraid before British cannon run in fear from this foul pestilence.

8. Sir, I protest most vehemently!

9. Her face was pulled taut in pain, and she jerked in her sleep.

10. No amount of cajoling would change her mind.
**Fever 1793 Vocabulary Worksheet Chapters 6-10 Continued**

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>droll</td>
<td>A. offered brief, critical comments</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>bestir</td>
<td>B. yielded, admitted, relinquished, or acknowledged reluctantly</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>conceded</td>
<td>C. tightly drawn or tense</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>implore</td>
<td>D. a deadly disease</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>harrumphed</td>
<td>E. amusing or funny in an odd way</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>gumption</td>
<td>F. with great passion or energy</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>pestilence</td>
<td>G. persuading by using flattery or promises</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>vehemently</td>
<td>H. to beg urgently</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>taut</td>
<td>I. aggressiveness; boldness</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>cajoling</td>
<td>J. to stir up, rouse, or bring to action</td>
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Chapters 11-16

1. As Matilda and her grandfather are traveling to the country with the farmer and his family, they come across four men on horseback. Initially, who do they think these men are?

2. How do Matilda and her grandfather end up stranded?

3. What trick does Matilda use to find water for her and her grandfather?

4. Why does Matilda’s grandfather call himself a fool?

5. While stranded on the side of the road Matilda’s grandfather says, “We must form our battle plans, both for this skirmish and for the rest of the war.” What does he mean by this?

6. What does Matilda use to try to catch fish?

7. After gathering fresh pears, Matilda heads back to feed and care for her grandfather. What happens on the way back?

8. Who is Mrs. Flagg?

9. What is Bush Hill?

10. Why is Matilda terrified to be at Bush Hill?

11. What does Matilda’s grandfather do while she is recovering at Bush Hill?

12. The clerk at Bush Hill discharges Matilda since she is once again healthy. Where does he want to send her?

13. What do the workers at Bush Hill want Matilda to do once she is discharged?


15. Where does Matilda think her mother is?
VOCABULARY Chapters 11-16 *Fever 1793*

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Grandfather stopped coughing and leaned back wearily.
______________________________________________________________________

2. “Go ahead,” the man said. “Make haste.”
______________________________________________________________________

3. I could never abide rotted fruit. It drew flies.
______________________________________________________________________

4. A melodious name for a beautiful lady.
______________________________________________________________________

5. They told of good people who refused to take any money for helping strangers, even though they were poor and near destitute.
______________________________________________________________________

6. “You have hunger?” he asked me. “Yes,” I answered. “I'm famished.”
______________________________________________________________________

7. My voice as too weak to carry far, and the doctor was already concentrating on the next jaundiced face.
______________________________________________________________________

8. I think he secretly enjoyed the commotion.
______________________________________________________________________

9. I cannot care for this little snippet of a girl.
______________________________________________________________________

10. “It is good that you have each other,” said Mrs. Bowles in the same placid voice.
______________________________________________________________________
**Fever 1793 Vocabulary Worksheet Chapters 11-16 Continued**

**Part II: Determining the Meaning**

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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<td>1</td>
<td>wearily</td>
<td>A. sweet sounding</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>haste</td>
<td>B. having a yellow discoloration of the skin due to disease</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>abide</td>
<td>C. swiftness of motion; hurry; rush</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>melodious</td>
<td>D. extremely hungry; starved</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>destitute</td>
<td>E. a small or insignificant person</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>famished</td>
<td>F. acting fatigued, tired, worn out</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>jaundiced</td>
<td>G. quiet; calm; peaceful</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>commotion</td>
<td>H. disturbance; constant activity; chaotic movement</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>snippet</td>
<td>I. to accept or to put up with; to tolerate</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>placid</td>
<td>J. lacking the necessities of life</td>
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Chapters 17-21

1. What do Matilda and her grandfather discover when they enter the coffeehouse for the first time?

2. What is Matilda relieved to find hidden under a stair?

3. How often does Matilda usually bathe?

4. How does Matilda’s grandfather feel about leaving the house to find food?

5. What does Matilda plan to do at the end of each day?

6. How does Matilda help her grandfather the night they are being robbed?

7. What are Matilda’s grandfather’s last words?

8. Why is it fitting that Matilda’s grandfather be buried in his nightshirt?

9. What item does Matilda bury with her grandfather?

10. How does Matilda get the men to allow a prayer to be said before burying her grandfather?

11. What does Matilda find when she goes to the market for food?

12. Why does Matilda go to the newspaper printer?

13. Who is Nell?

14. Why is Matilda searching for Reverend Allen’s group?

15. Who does Matilda reunite with?
VOCABULARY Chapters 17-21 Fever 1793

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Grandfather was picking through the broken chairs in the front room, trying to salvage something to sit on.

2. Maybe they saw the fever rag and thought there was still an invalid in the house.

3. I don’t want to hear any more talk of venturing outside, unless it’s to the garden.

4. Would anyone bother with a trifling robbery when there was death at every door?

5. & 6. The tall one would not relent. He pressed ahead, continuing to brandish the sword back and forth wildly.

7. They wrapped the cloth around him and quickly sewed the shroud shut.

8. A horse was tethered by the door.

9. They charge exorbitant prices for their wares, and get whatever they ask.

10. I hoisted her high in my arms and started south.
Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

___ 1. salvage  A. to shake or wave a weapon
___ 2. invalid    B. excessive; extreme; unreasonable
___ 3. venturing  C. small; insignificant; of little importance
___ 4. trifling    D. held by a rope or restraint in a short radius
___ 5. relent     E. raised up; to lifted
___ 6. brandish   F. someone who is too weak to care for himself
___ 7. shroud     G. slack; abandon; withdraw; become more mild
___ 8. tethered   H. taking a risk or braving dangers
___ 9. exorbitant I. a cloth or sheet in which a corpse is wrapped for burial
____ 10. hoisted  J. saving or rescuing the good of what is left
Chapter 22-25

1. What was Eliza’s first question for Matilda?

2. Who is Joseph?

3. What does Matilda learn about her mother from Eliza?

4. Why does Dr. Rush want the black people to help care for fever victims?

5. Matilda is helping out at Eliza’s house, acting more like an adult with each passing day. Give three ways Matilda is acting like a mature adult.

6. Why does Matilda decide to hurry up and take Nell to the orphan house?

7. Describe the orphanage.

8. What does Matilda find out about Colette Ogilvie?

9. What falls from the sky as Eliza and Matilda are walking home?

10. Who is hidden behind the shutters in the house Matilda and Eliza pass on their way home?

11. Why is it difficult for farmers to come to Philadelphia to sell food?

12. What odd ingredient are the people of Philadelphia putting in their bread?

13. Who is making a profit off the yellow fever?

14. Once William, Robert, and Nell come down with yellow fever, Matilda suggests that Eliza take them to Bush Hill. Eliza refuses. Where does Matilda suggest instead?

15. Why is Matilda so against calling a doctor to help William, Robert, and Nell?
Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. She led me up the stairs to a small set of rooms, dimly lit, but clean-smelling and orderly.

2. She hugged them tightly before disentangling herself from four arms.

3. Robert, William, and Nell sat on a log and watched me, solemn as three old preachers.

4. She cackled out loud when I tried to comb the knots out of Nell’s hair.

5. When the story was over, the boys trundled off to bed without protest.

6. He’s a scurrilous dog, that man.


8. “He’ll be fine, and those babies will be fine,” said Mother Smith resolutely.

9. & 10. She dosed the boys regularly and gently to purge the putrid bile from their bodies, but it seemed to have little effect.
Fever 1793 Vocabulary Worksheet Chapters 22-25 Continued
Part II: Determining the Meaning
Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

___ 1. dim  A. serious; not to be taken lightly
___ 2. disentangling  B. not bright; dull
___ 3. solemn  C. in the state of foul decay; rotten
___ 4. cackled  D. moved along
___ 5. trundled  E. causes physical or emotional pain
___ 6. scurrilous  F. unraveling; becoming free
___ 7. ails  G. obscene, abusive, vulgar
___ 8. resolutely  H. cleanse; purify
___ 9. purge  I. voiced a shrill, broken laugh
___ 10. putrid  J. with firm resolve or determination