

The Blacksmith's Daughter — Discussion Questions for Book Clubs

1. What does author Suzanne Adair do to project an image of the Southern theater of the Revolutionary War in *The Blacksmith's Daughter*?
2. What did you learn about the Revolutionary War that you didn't know before you read the novel?
3. What role does the historical setting play in *The Blacksmith's Daughter*? How does Suzanne Adair evoke a sense of place? What role does nature play?
4. In a suspense novel, the characters should be put in danger. What makes you worry about the fate of characters in *The Blacksmith's Daughter*?
5. Betsy leaves Augusta to achieve something. What is her real goal? Is she successful in achieving it?
6. How does Betsy differ from your ideas of what women were like during the Revolution?
7. Suzanne Adair populates historical Georgia and South Carolina with a diverse set of characters. What would draw such different people to the same geographical area?
8. For you, what is the most memorable scene in *The Blacksmith's Daughter*? Who is the most interesting character in the book? Why?
9. What is your reaction to the use of real historical figures (book examples: Colonel Thomas Brown, Charles Lord Cornwallis) as characters in fiction?
10. Betsy's mother keeps her biological father's identity from her. Is this a source of strength or weakness for Betsy? Why?
11. What are the themes in *The Blacksmith's Daughter*? Do any of the themes relate to topics or events in the news currently? How does the element of fire serve to advance story and theme?
12. How does "family" in 1780 differ from "family" now?
13. In chapter 28, Betsy makes a decision about her husband and marriage. Why does she make this choice? What is your reaction to her decision?
14. How would the use of modern forensics have changed the plot and outcome of *The Blacksmith's Daughter*?
15. What do you think happens to the characters after the story ends?