

Camp Follower — 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 *Camp Follower*?
2. What did you learn about Revolutionary-era camp followers that you didn't know before you read the novel?
3. What role does the historical setting play in *Camp Follower*? 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 *Camp Follower*?
5. Helen leaves Wilmington to accomplish something. What is her real goal? Is she successful in achieving it?
6. How does Helen differ from your ideas of what women were like during the Revolution?
7. For you, what is the most memorable scene in *Camp Follower*? Who is the most interesting character in the book? Why?
8. What is your reaction to the use of real historical figures (book examples: Francis Marion, Banastre Tarleton) as characters in fiction?
9. What did you learn about the observance of Christmas in the late 18th century and colonist's religious preferences that you didn't know before you read the novel? What is your reaction to Helen's religious preference?
10. One reviewer claimed Helen couldn't have practiced her religion because it had been suppressed and obliterated centuries earlier. Judging from historical patterns and current news stories, do you think suppression is effective at obliterating a religion? Explain.
11. How do you feel about following the story of a protagonist who is a loyalist instead of a patriot? Why do you feel that way?
12. What is your reaction to the "transaction" in Chapter 1? What are modern examples of this type of transaction?
13. Helen makes a decision about David St. James and Jonathan Quill. Why does she make this choice? How do you feel about her decision?
14. What do you think happens to the characters after the story ends?