

NEW FROM NEWBERY MEDALIST AVI

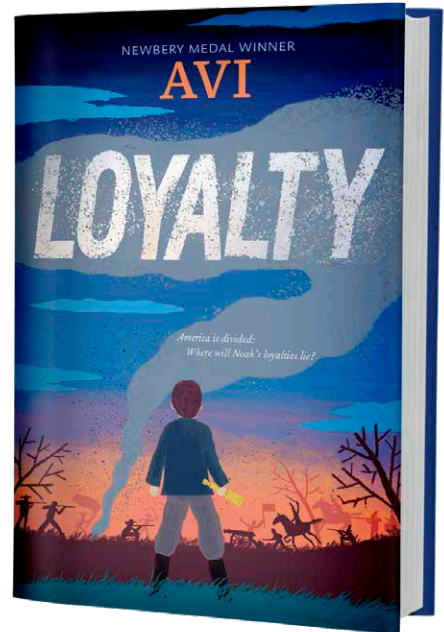
LOYALTY

ABOUT THE BOOK

Thirteen-year-old Noah is caught in the tangles of history in this dramatic story of the American Revolution. Should he be loyal to England and the British king as his father taught him or should he side with the Sons of Liberty against the British as many townspeople insist? It's confusing. What's the right thing to do?

Noah tells us his story, showing how he learns from encounters with both sides where his loyalty should lie. Should he be loyal to the British and the Tories who are defending them or to the rebels who oppose British rule? While Noah and his family are fictional characters in a story based on fact, the story also includes major figures of the Revolution who really existed. People from actual history mentioned include John Hancock, Sam Adams, Dr. Joseph Warren, and Paul Revere, who all belonged to the Sons of Liberty, and Generals Gage, Clinton, and Burgoyne, who were all soldiers in the British Army.

This dramatic story of one boy's experience, combined with true events from our history, makes this book a page-turner. Readers will eagerly follow Noah on his journey as he finds out where his true loyalty belongs. It's a complicated but rewarding journey.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Avi is the author of more than eighty books for children. His popular titles include *The Secret School*, *Poppy*, and *The Fighting Ground*, as well as the Newbery Honor books *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* and *Nothing But the Truth* and the Newbery Medal-winning *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*.

Check out Avi's word craft blog, information about Avi, and information about writing by visiting www.avi-writer.com.

Watch a video of Avi talking about a number of different things including "The Challenge of Historical Fiction," at: www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/avi

More books by Avi:
Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution
City of Orphans
The Fighting Ground
Night Journeys
Iron Thunder: The Battle Between the Monitor & the Merrimac

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The questions below are designed to promote discussion of the topics and events that are described in each section of the book.

PART 1

1. The narrator of the story is 13-year-old Noah Cope. What information does he tell you about the following people?

- Himself, Noah Cope
- His father, Solomon Cope
- His sisters, Faith and Mercy
- The Sons of Liberty
- The Tories

2. What happens to Noah's father? Why does it happen? What effect does this have on Noah and his family? How do the neighbors and townspeople react?

PART 2

3. Noah and his family flee Tullbury for Boston, arriving at his Uncle William's home and asking him to take them in. Describe what the family notices about the following:

- Uncle William—his appearance and his actions
- Uncle William's House
- The city of Boston

4. How does Uncle William manage to get a job for Noah? What is Noah hired to do? What does Noah think about the job? Do you agree with Noah's assessment of the job?

PART 3

5. Describe the Green Dragon, the tavern where Noah works. How does Noah describe it? Explain what he means

when he describes the conversations he hears there: "These conversations were unending, peppered with the usual radical seasonings: 'rights,' 'just laws,' 'freedom,' and always, 'liberty.'"

6. Over time, Noah begins to question his loyalty to the British. What made him change his mind? Consider the following quotes:

- "After three months of gathering information at the Dragon, all I had achieved was the dulling of my loyalty."
- "Noah . . . your father listened to no one. He thought he was right about everything. Don't . . . don't be like that. Think for yourself." (Quote from Noah's mother)

PART 4

7. Describe Noah's relationship with Jolla. What thoughts do they share about their feelings of loyalty? Consider the following quotes:

- Jolla tells Noah: "You want to be loyal. Fine. But no point in being loyal to what keeps you in a cage."
- Noah thinks: "If the British were our protectors, I thought, why had they tried to kill us? . . . If the rebels are for freedom, why did they kill my father? If both sides proclaim liberty, why do both sides enslave people?"

8. Share what you think of Jolla's advice to Noah, "Choose which side you're on. Or find a third way."

PART 5

9. Why does Noah travel alone to Tullbury to see his sister Mercy? What horrors does he see along the way? Later, why doesn't he return to Tullbury with the rest of his family? Is his decision not to return a good one?

10. Noah tells us that the British showed disbelief that the Americans had beaten the British army. Noah's father also had claimed that the English empire was invincible and would protect them. "You can be loyal to that," his father told him. Yet Noah understands that he must be the one to protect his family. What is Noah loyal to now?

PART 6

11. What were conditions like during the siege of Boston? Discuss the following:

- Getting food
- Finding employment
- Living under martial law
- Working at the Green Dragon after it had been turned into a medical station
- The fighting on Bunker Hill and in Charlestown

12. When Noah and Jolla are stopped by loyalists patrolling the streets, Noah realizes how different Jolla's world is from his. What does Jolla mean when he says: "I don't have papers to prove that I'm free, and it's not likely anyone is going to take my word for it. You know what I hate? Having to depend on white persons to define what I am."

PART 7

13. In the end, Noah has a clearer understanding of what loyalty means to him. He understands what Jolla meant when he said, "You're free, but you don't know it. You've built a cage out of notions and fears, but you don't see that the gate is open. It is." Consider the following questions:

- What does Noah finally understand about loyalty?
- How did he show his loyalty to Jolla?
- How do you understand the meaning of loyalty?

PART 8—AUTHOR'S NOTE

14. After reading the Author's Note, discuss which information in the book is true and which information is invented.

ACTIVITIES: THINKING MORE ABOUT THE BOOK

1. FREYER MODEL

Working alone or with a partner, divide a piece of paper into four quadrants. Label each of the four areas as follows: definition, essential characteristics, examples, and non-examples. Fill in each of the areas with your thoughts about loyalty. You can also include illustrations in one or more boxes to help explain your thoughts.

2. SKETCH TO STRETCH

Draw a picture showing your thoughts and feelings about loyalty. Next, describe your drawing in writing. Find a quote in the book that contributed to your thoughts and feelings, then share your sketch and thoughts with your classmates.

3. SEMANTIC GRADIENT

A semantic gradient begins with two polar opposites. In this case, consider loyalty and its opposite, disloyalty. Using these two opposites, put the words listed below in order so that they provide a bridge between loyalty and disloyalty. You should think about which word is most like loyalty. That comes first. Then, think about which word comes next, and so on. Work on your own or with a partner.

Patriotism

Integrity

Falseness

Sedition

Support

Betrayal

Allegiance

Deceitfulness

Treason

Treachery

Sincerity

Devotion

4. DRAW A POSTER

Research one of the following “real” people who are mentioned in the book. Then draw a poster to show the role he played during the American Revolution:

- John Hancock
- General Thomas Gage
- Samuel Adams
- General William Howe
- Paul Revere
- Dr. Warren
- George Washington

5. ONE-PAGE PLAY

Turn a scene from the book into a one-page play. Decide which characters are needed. Then use the dialogue in the book to create your play. Use a narrator to provide any information that is necessary, but not part of the dialogue. Once you are finished writing, practice reading your play with a partner. Then share your play with your classmates. Discuss why you selected this scene and what it shows.