

# The Freedom Star

## Discussion Questions

1. In the beginning of the book, Abraham and Isaac risk their lives to help a young couple escape through the Underground Railroad. What were some of the ways they helped? What dangers and challenges did the couple face?
2. Why was Thomas Day a free man? How did the town's white folks treat him?
3. Patrick and Henry McConnell differed as to how they should treat their slaves. Compare and contrast.
4. What is your favorite scene in the book?
5. Where did Isaac get his Freedom Star medallion? What did it mean?
6. Abraham made a pact with Morgan McConnell regarding Abraham's children. What was it? Do you think such pacts were common?
7. What themes were evident in this book?
8. When the slaves buried old July, Florence sprinkled shards of broken pottery on his grave. Why? What was the significance?
9. Aunt Lilly sewed a quilt of squares with a star near the top and a vine running through it. What did it represent and what would she do with it? Do you think slaves actually did this?
10. Why did Henry McConnell and the Confederates burn the southern city of Hampton, Virginia?
11. Isaac said repeatedly, "It ain't my war." He refused to fight. What changed his mind?
12. Which character do you feel demonstrated the greatest inner strength?
13. What did you learn about slave life in 1860s Virginia that surprised you?
14. Did you find yourself identifying with any particular character? Who?
15. Explain the relationship between Morgan McConnell and Florence.
16. Compare and contrast Henry's relationship with Isaac and his relationship with his brother, Patrick.

17. What did Big Jim rip from Clancy's neck and toss to Isaac before they buried him?

18. In the closing scene, Isaac said, "It ain't papers what makes you free...you's only free when you chooses to be free..." – What message was he sending to Big Jim?