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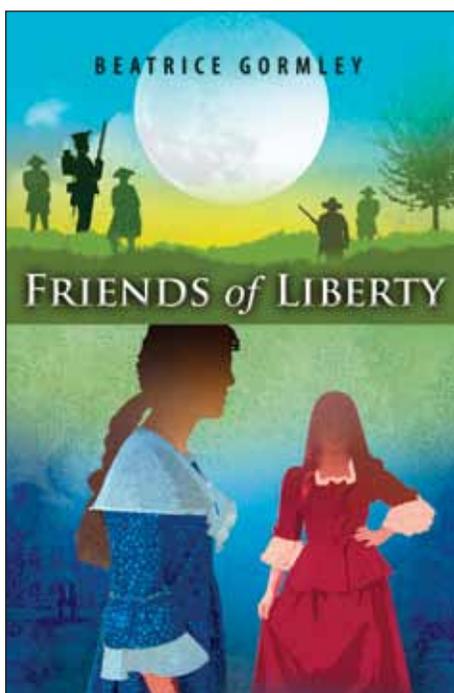
EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

INCLUDES COMMON CORE
STATE STANDARDS CORRELATIONS

FRIENDS OF LIBERTY

Written by

BEATRICE GORMLEY



Sally hardly recognized her own face in the looking glass above Kitty's dressing table. At home, there was only one small hand mirror, spotted and dim, that Felicity Gifford used to see if the part in her hair was straight. In Kitty's scroll-framed looking glass, wearing Kitty's pink flounced dress, Sally looked like a portrait of a young lady.

Sally felt a thrill. Today, she could be a different person . . .

It's 1773, and in Boston tensions are rising between the Patriots and the Loyalists. When Sally Gifford finds herself on the opposite side from her best friend Kitty Lawton, Sally must choose between her friend and her family and ultimately take a stand for what is most important.

ABOUT the Author

BEATRICE GORMLEY (www.beatricegormley.com) is the author of a number of award-winning children's books, including *Miriam and Maria Mitchell: The Soul of an Astronomer* (both Eerdmans), as well as *Salome* (Knopf). She lives in Massachusetts.

PRAISE FOR *Friends of Liberty*

"Gormley renders an appealing tale of families thrown into the march of history, and a young girl's journey toward a confident sense of herself and family pride through it all." — *Booklist*

"Portraying the months leading up to the Boston Tea Party, this effort provides an enlightening glimpse of the conflicts that surrounded average people in an extraordinary time." — *Kirkus Reviews*

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5¼" x 8" ❖ 192 pages ❖ Ages 9–14

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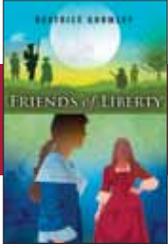
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If you have any suggestions for using *Friends of Liberty* with young readers, we would be happy to hear from you.

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EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ American history
- ❖ Courage
- ❖ Family
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Loyalty
- ❖ Responsibility

VOCABULARY USE AND ACQUISITION

Write down any unfamiliar words you encounter as you're reading the book. If possible, guess the meaning from the context. Otherwise use an online or print dictionary to find the meaning, and then share the words with your class. (L.4)

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

Sally is sure that Mr. Lawton wouldn't approve of Kitty's giving her the mourning ring — but she ends up keeping it anyways. Why does she decide to do this? (RL.1)

When Sally and Kitty are at Fort William, both girls think back to the time five years ago when British soldiers came to Boston. How does Sally's memory of the British soldiers' coming compare to Kitty's memory of the event? (RL.1)

Why do Hannah and Tom send Sally back to Boston? Do you think they had reason to not trust Sally? (RL.3)

What motivates James to help Sally rescue Ethan? Would you have done the same thing in his position? (RL.3)

What are some of the major themes in *Friends of Liberty*? How do you see these themes developed throughout the novel? Refer to specific details in the book to support your points. (RL.2)

How does Sally's opinion about her family change over the course of the story? Find at least two or three specific details in the text to support your point. (RL.3)

CRAFT AND STRUCTURE

Foreshadowing is the literary device of including subtle hints about what might happen later in a story. On page 38, the author writes: "Sally sensed something coming into view over the horizon, like the very tip of the mainmast of a ship laden with treasure, sailing toward her." What changes do you think Sally might be imagining? What else do you think the author might be foreshadowing? (RL.4)

The climax of a book is the dramatic turning point in a story. What scene do you think is the climax of *Friends of Liberty*? Explain your choice using specific references to the story. What has changed after the climax, both in terms of character and plot? (RL.5)

When Mr. Gifford learns that Sally has taken Kitty's mourning ring, he makes her repeat the commandments "Thou shalt not steal" and "Honor thy father and mother." But Sally is

convinced that she didn't steal or dishonor her mother. Which character's perspective do you think is true? Give reasons for your answer. (RL.6)

SPEAKING AND LISTENING / WRITING

Friends of Liberty is set during a very eventful period in American history. Learn more about the context for the book by researching the year leading up to the Boston Tea Party, identifying a list of important national and international events. Construct a timeline of these historical events. Once you've done that, construct a list of major events from the book and add them to your timeline to show how Sally's story fits in with the historical events. (W.7 / W.8)

Why do Sally and Kitty value each other's friendship? With your classmates, discuss whether you think that Kitty is a good friend to Sally. Use specific details from the story to support your points. (SL.1)

At the end of the book, Sally turns down the chance to leave with the Lawtons. Do you think Sally made the right decision? Discuss these questions with your classmates, and then write a paragraph imagining what Sally's life might have been like if she had made a different choice. (SL.1 / W.4)

Some of the issues that Sally has to deal with probably feel familiar to modern readers. But her everyday life probably looked quite a bit different from yours. Do some research to find out more about what life would have been like for a girl living in the 1770s. What would an average day have looked like? What conveniences do you take for granted that Sally would not have had? Present your findings to your classmates. (SL.4 / W.7)

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS

What other historical fiction novels have you read? Read another book set around the time of the Revolutionary War, and then think about what it has in common with *Friends of Liberty*. Are any of the characters similar? Do the books have any of the same themes? Or highlight any of the same events? (RL.9)

In chapter 9, Ethan describes how, three years earlier, a customs commissioner had fired into an angry crowd, killing a young boy named Christopher Seider. Find more information about this real historical event. Do you notice any differences between the historical account and the story Ethan tells? What parts of the story does Ethan emphasize? What point is he making when he tells this story? (RL.9)