**Forge Question Answers for Part I 2018**

**Prelude Answers**

1. The story is being told in the first person point of view. Curzon is the narrator.

2. Curzon is with Isabel, an escaped slave who is his friend. She freed Curzon from the Bridewell Prison. Physically, her face is scarred because she was branded. Isabel is brave and determined. She is also tough as evidenced by her bloody, blistered hands. Despite her pain, she continued to row throughout the night.

3. Curzon is in a rowboat with Isabel heading away from Manhattan and towards Charlestown.

4. Curzon was in the Bridewell Prison on Manhattan before he was freed by Isabel.

**Chapter 1 Answers**

1. “Prelude” was an example of a flashback because it shows a memory that happened in the past before Curzon and Isabel parted.

2. Curzon’s old boss was Trumbull. Curzon’s description of him indicates that Trumbull was cheap and miserly. He only cared about money.

3. Curzon robbed from Trumbull because Trumbull owed him money and refused to pay him. Then, Trumbull fired him.

**Chapter 2 Answer**

Curzon helps the boy by throwing a rock at the British soldier and saving the boy’s life. It can be inferred that Curzon helped the boy because he was similar in age to him and could relate to his situation. Also, Curzon fought for the Patriot army, so he may have felt loyalty to any Patriot.
Chapter 3 Answers

1. Curzon lies and allows the boy to believe the boy's wrong assumption, that Curzon is a Patriot soldier. Curzon does this because he was afraid that telling the truth could get him arrested because he stole from Trumbull and fled. He is also afraid that he will be caught since he is a runaway slave.

2. Curzon was startled into speechlessness because the boy was treating him as an equal even though Curzon is African American. Not only did the boy thank Curzon, but he punched him in the arm like a friend would do. This reveals that Curzon has not been treated as an equal in the past, and it also infers that Curzon usually has a lot to say since his speechlessness was “rare.”

Chapter 4

1. Curzon takes the broken compass from the soldier. A compass tells direction and grounds a person so he/she knows which direction to take. Curzon at this time is confused as to which direction to take – to flee or to fight with Eben. It is an internal or character vs. self conflict. Just as Curzon’s inner compass is broken so is the one he found. The literary technique used is symbolism. The compass is a symbol representing Curzon's inner confusion as to where to go.

Chapter 6

Curzon loses his father’s hat. This is so important because it is the last item that he has that is a memory of his father. It is a symbol of his father and the love he had for him.

Chapter 7

Ebenezer Woodruff, or Eben, helps Curzon. Eben is the boy whose life Curzon saved by throwing the rock. Eben is a fair-skinned, gap-toothed Patriot soldier who is very talkative.
Chapter 8

1. Curzon is almost arrested because Trumbull comes to camp and accuses him of stealing – which he did. Curzon avoids arrest when Eben removes all of the spoons from Curzon’s bag before giving it to the sergeant.

2. Sergeant Woodruff bows to Curzon to show him honor and respect as well as gratitude for saving Eben’s life. The sergeant feels beholden to Curzon for this action. Curzon is surprised by this because he is African American and has never been honored like that before. In addition, he is being honored by a sergeant, a person high in rank, while he, Curzon, is a “lowly” slave. He bows back to the sergeant even more deeply to show that he understands the honor.

3. Trumbull is a greedy and cruel man. He is selfish and malicious, as well as prejudiced. Trumbull states of Curzon, “He can't breathe without lying,” and then grabs Curzon’s arm. Trumbull is a hypocrite since he is a liar as well.

Chapter 9

1. Curzon reenlists in the Continental army.

Before

Curzon starts to realize that he actually cares for Isabel as more than a friend. He thinks, “I suddenly realized that I didn’t want her to regard me as a brother anymore.” He used to feel brotherly and that grew into a love for Isabel.
Chapter 10

1. Curzon recalls his own experience when he was captured by the British. He was mistreated by them. Curzon recalls that the British threw rotted garbage and eggs at him and the other prisoners while “…screaming curses, foul names, and insults” (49). Curzon has difficulty restraining his anger at the British when they are captured.

2. The rebels only play “Yankee Doodle” as the British pass by, but otherwise they treat the British honorably. “Yankee Doodle” is a song the British made up to make fun of the Patriots. They are playing it as a “slap in the face” to the British.

3. The rebels show honor to the British by standing in silence as a sign of respect. The Patriots honored the British because it was the first time British army had ever surrendered.

4. Curzon “chose the course of honor” which is the honorable path. Curzon decided to stand with the Patriots silently rather than throw the acorns he had gathered.

Chapter 11

1. This quote is an example of allusion. It refers to the story of Noah in the Bible. Noah built an ark in order to escape a great flood. It was raining so much that the lad was remarking it was almost like the Great Flood.

2. John Burns is a Patriot soldier in Curzon’s unit. He is rude, obnoxious, prejudiced, lazy and treacherous. John Burns states to Curzon, “My arm hurts. Fetch the wood for me, you dirty negar” (55). This shows that not only is Burns lazy but also racist. He feels he is more important and more worthy than Curzon and the other soldiers.

3. John Burns was called a “bootlicker” because he is always kissing up and trying to make Sergeant Woodruff think he a model soldier. The text states, [He] was “close to the sergeant’s elbow to be of service…” (57) meaning that John Burns was always right next to Sergeant Woodruff ready to jump to seem the most helpful and wonderful guy.
Chapter 12

1. The phrase “the poison from John Burns’s twisted heart was spreading” means that John Burns’s racist ideals and prejudice against African Americans – and specifically against Curzon – is being spread through Burns’s rumors.

2. Sergeant Woodruff was trying to warn Curzon that Colonel Hardenburgh was not tolerant of African Americans. Curzon listens to the Sergeant but does not understand what the sergeant means until he meets Colonel Hardenburgh. After he is treated as a slave and not a soldier, he understands that Hardenburgh is racist. He is very upset by his ill treatment, and this causes him to argue with Eben.

Chapter 13

1. A hollow compliment is one that has nothing in it, and therefore is one that is not a true compliment. John Burns’s giving Eben hollow compliments shows that he is not truly complimenting him, and therefore is being “fake” and is not his true friend.

2. The “her” in the quote is Isabel. Curzon is having trouble “soldiering” his thoughts about her which means he can not control his mind from constantly thinking of her.

3. The crow falling is an omen of disaster and/or trouble. The crow is therefore an example of foreshadowing. The crow falls right as the men are about to embark on their journey to Valley Forge. This omen means that Valley Forge might not be the great place that the men are anticipating.

4. Answers will vary...