

Across Five Aprils

Directions: The left column in the table below lists the paragraph number in which a character is speaking in the story excerpt. You will write down which character is speaking for each paragraph and summarize or paraphrase what they are arguing, asserting, etc., in that paragraph.

| Prgph | Spkr | Main idea of argument, etc. |
|-------|------|-----------------------------|
| 8 | | |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | | |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | | |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | | |
| 20 | | |
| 21 | | |
| 23 | | |
| 24 | | |
| 25 | | |

Directions: There are four paragraphs in the paragraphs covered above in which the speaker of that paragraph concedes, or agrees with, at least a portion of the argument or claim that someone said before. In the left margin, draw arrows that point to the paragraphs in which this happens.

Directions: There are five different speakers in the conversation in this excerpt. For each person, go back and look over the things that they said in the various paragraphs in which they spoke. For each person, first determine their view of the coming war (what they see the conflict is really about), and then determine what they seem to say about human nature, especially as the conversation turned more specifically to the topic of slavery (in paragraphs 14, and 17-25).

| character | view of coming war/its issues | view of human nature |
|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Wilse | | |
| Matthew | | |
| Ellen | | |
| John | | |
| Bill | | |

Directions: answer the following questions about the story.

1. The author, Irene Hunt, makes some pretty heavy use of dialect in the conversation. How does the use of dialect in the story shape our understanding of/the way we think and/or feel about the characters? Explain your reasoning.
2. Which character was most convincing in their arguments in regards to his/her views on the war, on slavery, etc.? Explain your reasoning.
3. How does showing the different points of view about the war shape how we feel about the characters? Explain your reasoning.