Student's Guide for *Amos Fortune, Free Man* from literatureplace.com
Africa 1725 (pp. 3-13)

My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. When and where does the story begin? How are the people of the village signaled the time to gather for a celebration?
2. What are the At-mun-shi people about to celebrate. Why is this an important holiday for them? Are you familiar with similar celebrations? Tell about them.
3. Who is the chief of the village? What are the people called?
4. What does At-mun do to establish himself as their prince and future ruler? How do the people feel about him?
5. What comment is made by one of the women that tells how At-mun will rule?
6. How old is At-mun, the young prince? Describe him. How old is his sister Ath-mun, the young princess? Describe her. Why is it unusual to see a child with a deformity in this village? Why is Ath-mun's life spared?
7. What custom do the people have concerning their weapons?
8. Who are the invaders? Are they black or white men? What do they take before the raid? How many people do they kill?
9. What members of the tribe do the slavers seize? Who are left behind?
10. What does At-mun whisper to his sister before he is taken away?
11. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

equatorial
mystic
herbage
reverence
muted
pace
fervor
foliage
ceased
obeisance
wreaked
vengeance
sheen
commenced
reverberations
guttural
incantation
seethed
stealthily
muskets
withes
utterance
desolate

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My chapter questions, notes, and more

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Student's Guide for *Amos Fortune, Free Man* from literatureplace.com
The Middle Passage (pp. 14-33)

My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. When the At-mun-shi are first being led through the jungle, how does At-mun communicate hope to his people. How do they respond to At-mun? How does this change over time?
2. Why is slavery so foreign to the At-mun-shi? What words would you use to describe the At-mun-shi?
3. How are the At-mun-shi treated by their captors? How do the captives react to this treatment?
4. Why does At-mun study the details of his surroundings? What are his plans?
5. How does At-mun feel about the new world he is seeing? Why does he feel this way?
6. What is the attitude of the At-mun-shi about killing people or animals?
7. What does At-mun want to do? Why does he decide not to do it?
8. Describe the pits and the three weeks the At-mun-shi wait there. Who else is brought to the pits?
9. What does the master of the *White Falcon* trade for a cargo of slaves?
10. How do the traders prepare the captives for review by the master of the *White Falcon* ?
11. One of the traders says of At-mun, "What the pit didn't do for him, the ship will." What do you think he means?
12. Where is the *White Falcon* going? In what ports along the way will it stop?
13. What are the master of the ship's requirements for the captives he chooses? How does he examine them? How many does he choose to take?
14. What happens to those captives the captain rejects?
15. Describe life in the hold for the 345 captives who are chosen by the master of the ship? How long is the voyage?
16. Why does At-mun at first want to remember of his native land? Why does he change? What two things does he feel he must burn forever upon his memory?
17. How many captives die during the voyage? What are some of the things that happen to them?
18. The last stop is Boston on the first Sunday in July, 1725. Describe the twenty captives who are on board at the last stop. Are any of the At-mun-shi among them? Why do they have to wait until the next day before bringing the ship to the wharf?
19. At-mun is the first to be hailed by the auctioneer. Describe how At-mun appears when he stands on the auction block.
20. How does the Quaker Caleb Copeland differ from the other white men At-mun sees?
21. Had Caleb Copeland planned to buy a slave? Why do you think he buys At-mun when he is supposed to sell cloth? Why do you think he names him "Amos"?
22. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

bewilderment
quiver
cunning
abashed
manacled
crouch
subdued
furrows
tillage
elation
compound
expiation
brandished
confinement
docile
meager
rations
docility
restrictive
raucous
truculant

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Use another sheet of paper for your responses.

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Student's Guide for *Amos Fortune, Free Man* from literatureplace.com

Boston 1725-1740 (pp. 34-52)

My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. What does Caleb Copeland answer when his wife says, "Thee knows we are against slavery"? What does he respond when she says, "…you will give him his freedom"?
2. Had At-mun (Amos as he was now called) ever seen furniture before? Does he use the furniture in the room Celia prepares for him?
3. What does Celia understand about Amos that her husband does not?
4. What does Amos learn living in the Copeland household? Describe his life there.
5. Do Amos and Roxanna take the same meaning from the passages in the Bible or was their understanding of them different? Explain.
6. For how many years does Amos live in the Copeland household? What does Amos answer when Caleb speaks of giving him his freedom? Why?
7. How and why does Amos become a leader among the black servants in Boston? In what activities does he refuse to join them?
8. What is the Quaker attitude toward slavery? How does it differ from the Copeland family's attitude toward slavery?
9. How does Amos feel toward Caleb Copeland? Explain why.
10. Why does Amos read the Boston *News-Letter* for the arrival of ships? Why does he ask Caleb to allow him to deliver cloth on a day when a sailing ship arrives? For what or whom is he searching?
11. How does Amos get the last name Fortune?
12. What happens to Amos at age thirty when Caleb dies?
13. What is the only thing Amos worries about when he is to be sold?
14. What do you think the fact that slaves are described as *something* rather than *someone* shows about the white man's attitude?
15. How does Amos get money to bid on himself and to think about bidding on Ath-mun if she appears on the auction block?
16. Explain the sentence, "The sun stood still over Africa, it was only in America that it moved."
17. Who buys Amos? What is this man's trade? Notice that the currency at the time was British money. How much is paid for Amos?
18. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

stalwart
cultivate
stolid
carding
zeal
cipher
hearth
kneaded
manumission
admonition
allied
status
articulate
fervently
vendue
omen

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My chapter questions, notes, and more

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Student's Guide for *Amos Fortune, Free Man* from literatureplace.com
Woburn 1740-1779 (pp. 53-67) *Note: First reading assignment*

My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. What is Ichabod Richardson's philosophy concerning owning other humans?
2. Although they speak little on the trip to Woburn, how do Richardson and Amos feel about one another?
3. Where does Amos live during his years with the Richardsons?
4. What is the only favor Amos asks of Mr. Richardson?
5. How does Mr. Richardson feel about Amos's singing?
6. What puzzles Amos about the white man's religious practices? How does Amos practice his religious beliefs? What does this tell you about Amos's character?
7. Why is the word *liberty* so often on the lips of the whites in the Colonies? Do you think they see how similar their desire for liberty from England's rule is to the black man's desire for freedom from slavery? Explain why.
8. Why does Amos have to carry a letter of permission from his owner when he goes to sell leather?
9. Who is Amos hoping to find when there is a sale of slaves? What does Amos see in his reflection in the polished tin that serves as a mirror? What happens as a result of this?
10. How is Amos to get his freedom? What are the terms of his agreement with Mr. Richardson? What does Amos have to contribute toward his freedom? Does it happen immediately?
11. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

inclined
deemed
tanner
chattel
apprentice
loathe
tallow
pertained
vigilant
vex
fraught
impassive
scoffed
brawn
remonstrated
uprightness
covenant
indenture
dilute

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My chapter questions, notes, and more

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Student's Guide for *Amos Fortune, Free Man* from literatureplace.com
Woburn 1740-1779 (pp. 67-80) *Note: Second reading assignment*

My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. How does Amos actually get his freedom? What does Mrs. Richardson do to change the terms? How old is Amos at this time?
2. How does the story of Moses inspire Amos?
3. For how much time does Amos work for Mrs. Richardson at the tannery after he has his freedom? What does he do with the money he earns?
4. What is happening politically in Boston in December, 1773?
5. What petition does a group of Boston Negroes present to the Massachusetts Legislature?
6. What happens to Lily? How does Ath-mun inspire her brother Amos's desire to give Lily freedom? Do you think Amos considers money or people more important? Support your answer.
7. What two events happen in 1773 that create "the wind of freedom"?
8. Who becomes Amos's second wife? Tell about her? Why do you think Amos chooses her?
9. When Amos first sees Lydia, who does he think she might be? Find the line which suggests this on page 76.
10. How long does it take Amos to save enough money to buy Lydia?
11. "All men are created equal…" was written into the Declaration of Independence. Why are theses word difficult to explain to a black man?
12. What is Amos's personal war for freedom? What does he use to fight his war?
13. How long does Lydia live in freedom?
14. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

quitclaim
stipulated
aghast
furor
spavined
whims

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My chapter questions, notes, and more

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Student's Guide for *Amos Fortune, Free Man* from literatureplace.com

Journey to Keene (pp. 81-92)

My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. Why does Amos leave Woburn, Massachusetts, to go to Keene, New Hampshire?
2. What is the shadow side of Amos's freedom that he meditates on as he journeys to Keene? What does he plan to do about it?
3. How much money does James Baldwin require for Amos to buy freedom for Violet and her four year old daughter? Does Amos have enough money?
4. Which character from the Bible inspires Amos at this time? Tell why?
5. Where does Amos sleep in Keene? Why doesn't he protest although he knows the price is excessive?
6. What does Mr. Samuel George tell Amos about his work? What does it mean for Amos to have his leather consigned to Mr. George?
7. Why do you think Amos wants to buy fine clothes from the cobbler? What does the cobbler think? How does the cobbler rationalize or justify white people owning black people?
8. Amos asks the Lord for a sign if Jaffrey, the place he chose, is the right place for him to start his life again. What does he consider to be a sign telling him *yes*?
9. Describe Cyclops. How does Amos take care of Cyclops. What does this tell you about Amos?
10. It is June when Amos sets out from Keene, New Hampshire. When does he free and marry Violet Baldwin? What does this tell you of Amos's success as a tanner?
11. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

mediated
impulse
robust
accommodation
excessive
vented
ensue
consigned
cobbler
transaction
security
tentatively
domestic

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My chapter questions, notes, and more

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Student's Guide for *Amos Fortune, Free Man* from literatureplace.com
The Arrival at Jaffrey (pp. 93-108)

My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. Why does Amos need to have enough money to live on for six months before his family moves to Jaffrey? Is it a good idea for anyone to have some money set aside for times when money isn't coming in?

2. Why is it important for Amos to be in his new surroundings by early spring? In what year do Amos and his family move to Jaffrey?

3. What does Violet carry with her to her new home? Why does she feel the need to bring these with her? What treasure does Celyndia carry with her? Describe it.

4. Amos had been born to become a king. In what sense could he become a king in America? What Bible quote inspires him to this idea? Where does he first hear this quote?

5. How long does it take them to reach Jaffrey? What mountains are located near Jaffrey. Find them on a map of New Hampshire.

6. When the Constable warns Amos to "get out of town," how does Amos handle him? Describe what he does. Do you think this is better than becoming argumentative? Why or why not?

7. Did other free blacks live in Jaffrey?

8. What arrangement is made between Amos and Parson Ainsworth?

9. What does Amos mean when he says, "A man has to show his thanks in the way that comes best to his hand"? What does he plan to do to show his appreciation for the use of the parson's land?

10. What kind of a welcome do Amos and his family get from the regular neighbors? Explain.

11. What does Amos pray for on his first night in Jaffrey?

12. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

intervening
diligently
frugally
accumulated
vats
constable
common
gentry
endeavor
liability
impoverished
deferential

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My chapter questions, notes, and more

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My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. Why is the first summer in Jaffrey so busy?
2. How do Celyndia and Violet help Amos?
3. Where do people get the hides they bring to Amos to be tanned?
4. Describe the steps in the tanning process? How long does this process take?
5. Why is it necessary for a tanner to live near woods and water? What trees are best for tanbark? How is tanbark used in the tanning process?
6. When Amos thinks about his first year in Woburn, how does he compare it to his first year in Jaffrey? Why is there such a difference? What does Amos prefer? Why?
7. Why does Amos build a second room on the cabin? Where does Amos keep the money he earns?
8. Do the white people think all black people are as happy as Amos? To what do you think they attribute this happiness? To what do you attribute Amos's happiness?
9. How do you think Mount Monadnock tells Amos the weather? What does the name of this mountain mean in the Indian language? Why do you think Amos feels a kinship with this mountain?
10. Do you think we could learn many things if we were more in tune with nature? If you do, give some examples.
11. Why doesn't Amos promise to accommodate the young man who wants leather breeches for his wedding?
12. Describe Amos's Sunday outfit. Where do the free blacks sit in the Meeting House?
13. Describe the Burdoo family—the mother, the father, the five children. How is the Fortune family' situation different from that of the Burdoo family? What troubles Violet? Why?
14. How long is it before Amos is accepted as a member of the church in Jaffrey? What does Amos need in order to become a member?
15. Although Amos is highly respected for his work, what limits do the other church members put on him because he is black? Who do you think loses because of this?
16. Why do you think the stories Amos tells the children are about Africa? What do the thoughts of Africa bring to their minds?
17. What is the story Amos tells about the custom of a tribe near the Great Falls? What do they do when their chief is about to die? What do you think the message in this story is?
18. Why is Lois fearful that her children will be taken from her? What does Amos promise her?
19. How does Violet feel about the promise Amos made to Lois? Why? What does she do? How does she feel about her own actions?
20. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

prostate
tannin
loom
expenditure
gauze
cantering
convex
sulphuric acid
distend
susceptible
pliant
kips
tawed
alum
fiery
took stock
dismission
riding pillion
nudged
rank
deception
feign

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Use another sheet of paper for your responses.

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Student's Guide for *Amos Fortune, Free Man* from literatureplace.com

Amos on the Mountain (pp. 130-145)

My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. What does Amos long for? Is there any possibility of his attaining this goal?

2. What makes Amos think of postponing his dream? How does Violet react to Amos's plan?

3. Does Violet have doubts about what she did hiding the iron kettle? Why does she admit to Amos that she buried the iron kettle in the woods? Does she tell him exactly where?

4. Does Amos believe that the money belongs only to him or to both him and his wife Violet? What does he say that tells you his attitude?

5. What does Violet say to defend her actions? Why does she feel that Amos can not wait another few years to reach his goals?

6. On what occasion does Violet tell Amos where the money is? Do you think she is right or wrong in hiding the money?

7. Why does Amos decide to go up on the mountain? What does Violet promise herself as she watches him go?

8. In addition to his family, what are the other three things Amos has? He realizes that he will not always have two of them; what are they?

9. To Amos the great wind that blows across the mountain is the voice of God. But what does he hear God telling him?

9. When Amos returns home, what does he tell Violet?

11. What reason does Violet give Amos for returning the iron kettle to the hearth while he was gone?

12. How does Amos's attitude toward the ownership of the contents of the iron kettle change?

13. In what ways do both Amos and Violet contribute to making the new land and the new house their home?

14. By the end of 1789, Amos Fortune becomes a land owner. How old is he when he fulfills this dream?

15. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

excavate
imploringly
snare
shiftlessness
intimidation
clamoring
composure
crest
dispersed
stalwart
treadles

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My chapter questions, notes, and more

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Student's Guide for *Amos Fortune, Free Man* from literatureplace.com
Auctioned for Freedom (pp. 146-163)

My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. The Fortune family's ownership of land changes their lives in many ways. What items of comfort do Amos and Violet have in the new house? What new additions to the yard and barn do they have? What help does Amos have?
2. Customers come from considerable distances to Amos's tannery. On a map of New England locate Reading and Sterling, Massachusetts, as well as Amherst and New Ipswich, New Hampshire. How far is each of these four locations from Jaffrey, New Hampshire?
3. Explain this line: "People trusted him not only with skins and hides but in matters of pounds and pence." What else do people ask of Amos?
4. How does Amos win "his way to equality"? How does Amos prove himself to be the intellectual equal to the most informed in town?
5. In time whose opinion of Lois Burdoo seems to be prove true—Amos's or Violet's? Support your answer.
6. What does it mean to be "put up to Public Vendue"? Explain how it worked. What other ways have there been of taking care of the poor from that time to the present?
7. What are some of the reasons why people bid on those who were "put up to Public Vendue"?
8. Why does Amos bid on fourteen year old Polly Burdoo? Who bids on twelve year old Moses Burdoo? Why is this a good thing?
9. How does Violet feel about Polly? How does Celyndia feel about her? Does Polly adjust well to her new home? Tell why or why not.
10. When the teacher sends a note saying that Polly will not learn, how does Amos bribe him? What does Amos say?
11. Why does the teacher agree to keep Polly? Does he understand what Amos means when he says, "She hasn't long with us…"?
12. What do you think is the significance of Polly asking for the story of the chariot more than all the other stories?
13. In November when Polly passes away, why does Amos thank the Lord? In what way does Amos believe that Polly lacked freedom until she came to live with him and his family?
14. What does Violet understand about Amos at that moment? What have the years taught Amos about freedom?
15. When Amos says, "I've not seen what was ahead for us until now," what do you think he means?
16. What does Amos do with the money the town gave him for the support of Polly Burdoo?
17. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

abeyance
illiteracy
ineffective
indigent
expedient
exasperation
leniency
gainsaid
supple
radiance

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My chapter questions, notes, and more

Use another sheet of paper for your responses.

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Student's Guide for *Amos Fortune, Free Man* from literatureplace.com
Evergreen Years (pp. 164-181)

My think, write, and talk about chapter guide

1. How does Dr. Toothaker honor Amos?
2. For how long will young Charles be indentured to Amos? What must Charles do during this time? What does Amos promise to do?
3. What memory is behind Amos's dedication to helpless folk? How does it help him? Do you know someone that shares the same passion to help those who are in need? Tell about it.
4. How old is Amos when he last climbs Mt. Monadnock physically? How does he continue to go there?
5. Although Amos feels that his life is coming to a close, why isn't he ready to die?
6. The author says that Amos "could call no pew his own" in the church. What was the custom for white people when they attended church?
7. What does the author mean when she says that Amos must "dwell on the fringe"? Although he accepts this for himself, what does Amos want for his people?
8. In what way do the linens made by Violet's hand receive better treatment by the whites than Violet herself receives?
9. What is the difference between how Amos used money in the last few years of his life and how he used money earlier?
10. How does the man in the tavern humiliate Amos? Although Amos is a free black man, does he dare do anything to defend himself against a white man? Why or why not?
11. How can hate put a person in bondage? What does the author mean when she says that Moses walked home with Amos? What is the comparison?
12. "Amos told himself that if people knew what it was they did that caused suffering they would no longer do it." What quotation do you know that says the same thing?
13. What do you think is the significance of Amos leaving a silver communion service for the church in Jaffrey?
14. What do you think is the significance of Amos giving money to educate the sons and daughters of Jaffrey?
15. For how long does Amos "free the white man" by these two actions?
16. How does Amos arrange for the well being of Violet and Celyndia? To whom does he entrust what is to be written on his and Violet's tombstone?
17. What is the date of Amos's death? How old is he when he dies? Do you think the epitaph written on his tombstone does justice to his life?
18. What is the date of Violet's death? How old is she when she dies? What do you notice about her name on the tombstone? What do you think of her epitaph?
19. What happens to Amos's gifts for the church and the school?
15. Add the words you selected to the ***WORDS THAT TELL OUR HISTORY*** chart. As you add each word, tell the meaning of the word as it relates to the story.

My vocabulary list

minority
procure
cipher
cone
taunting
affronts
renegade
tender
guffawed
redress
bondage
renown
commended
erected
designation
disposition
buoyancy

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