

**Amos Fortune, Free Man**

by Elizabeth Yates

**Directions:** While you read, answer the following questions. Use an additional sheet of paper if needed.

**Africa 1725 & The Middle Passage, pp. 3-33**

1. In what season does this book begin? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what part of Africa does this book begin? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the name of the tribe at the beginning of the book?
 

(a) Ast-mahn-si.	c) At-mosh-ni.
(b) Ath-man-chee.	d) At-mun-shi.
4. . For what is the tribe preparing at the beginning of the book?
 

(a) A feast.	c) A hunt.
(b) A dance.	d) A ritual.
5. What instrument does the king play at the beginning of this book? \_\_\_\_\_
6. . How old is the king's son at the beginning of the book? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is wrong with the king's daughter?
 

(a) She is blind.	c) She has a lame leg.
(b) She is deaf.	d) She is missing an arm.
8. What is the name of the king's son? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How old is At-mun at the beginning of the novel? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why do the men leave their weapons at the edge of camp?  
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11. How does Ath-mun feel about her brother?  
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12. How does At-mun handle the circumstances of being captured?  
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13. Why is At-mun revered by his people?  
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14. How are the captives treated as they make their way through the jungle?

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15. What does At-mun feel as his surroundings begin to change?

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16. Why does At-mun decide not to attempt to escape from the canoe?

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17. Why are the people less responsive to At-mun as their days in captivity wear on?

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18. Why are only the healthiest and largest of the captives in the pits of interest to the master of the *White Falcon*?

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19. What do the guards think will cure the prideful way At-mun holds his head?

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20. Why doesn't the master choose anyone over age 25 or under 4 feet tall?

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21. What is At-mun thinking as the ship sails away from Africa?

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22. Why does At-mun work so hard to remember the past?

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23. What two things does At-mun vow to always remember?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

24. What are some of the reasons that not all of the African captives will survive the voyage across the ocean?

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25. Which slaves are left when the ship reaches the last port?

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**Boston 1725-1740 & Woburn 1740–1779, pp. 34–80**

1. Why does Caleb Copeland think Amos is part animal?

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2. How does Celia's treatment of Amos differ from the way Caleb initially treats him?

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3. What does Amos first understand in the Copeland household?

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4. What is the "Meeting every First Day"?

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5. How is Amos taught to read English?

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6. Why is waiting for freedom so difficult for some slaves?

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7. Why is Amos interested in the slave ships that come to Boston?

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8. How does Amos feel when he learns he will be sold?

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9. For what is Amos saving money? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What does Amos learn about gaining privileges?

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11. Is religion important to Amos? (yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_ Explain your answer.

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12. Name some basic freedoms that are not granted to slaves.

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13. Describe Amos' lifestyle while living with the Richardson family.

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14. About how old is Amos when Mr. Richardson draws up his agreement for freedom? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Why does Amos cry when he looks in the polished tin?

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16. What is Mrs. Richardson's opinion about slavery?

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17. After the conversation with Mrs. Richardson, what does Mr. Richardson change about his agreement with Amos?

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18. Why does Amos say "blacks are used to waiting" (p. 71)?

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19. Why is Mr. Twombly surprised to see Amos?

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20. Why is it important to Amos to free Lily and Lydia?

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**Journey to Keene 1779 & The Arrival at Jaffrey, pp. 81-108**

1. Why is Amos especially pleased about purchasing Violet's freedom?

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2. What can you tell about Amos from the way he treats Cyclops?

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3. Why does Amos like the little town he comes to on his way to Keene?

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4. What does Amos do when he dismounts Cyclops and looks around?

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5. How does Amos show character when dealing with Samuel George?

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6. How does Samuel George feel about black people?

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7. Why does Celyndia stop chasing the butterfly?

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8. Why does Celyndia cry when Amos reminds her she is free?

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9. Why is it important for Amos to arrive at his new residence in the spring?

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10. What risks does Amos take in moving his family?

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11. What does Celyndia still not understand when they arrive at Jaffrey the first day?

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12. What kind of welcome do Amos, Violet, and Celyndia receive when they arrive in Jaffrey?

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13. Why does the constable try to dissuade the Fortune family from settling in Jaffrey?

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14. Why is the constable persistent in his discouragement?

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15. To whom does the constable refer Amos Fortune? \_\_\_\_\_

16. How does Amos use his talents to get what he needs?

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**Hard Work Fills the Iron Kettle 1781-1789 & Amos on the Mountain, pp. 109-145**

1. Why doesn't Violet have time to sit at the loom?

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2. List the steps in making lime.

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3. What does paying in "cash or kind" mean?

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4. Why are people often jealous after visiting the Fortune family?

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5. Why does Celyndia understand what it's like to stand alone like the mountain?

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6. What does the author mean by the statement, "And their mother, Lois, turned longingly to words about heaven for she had wearied of finding any peace on earth" (p. 120)?

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7. What are the joys in Amos' life?

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8. Why does Amos place his finger over his mouth as they enter the Burdoo home?

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9. What is the song, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" on pages 123–124 about?

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10. Summarize the story Amos tells about the death of the African chief on pages 125-126.

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11. Why does Violet hide the money in the kettle?

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12. On what does she want to spend it? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Why doesn't Violet think buying the Burdoo family a home will improve their lives?

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14. What do Amos and Violet do to resolve the disagreement about how to spend their savings?

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15. What does the following statement (p. 139) mean, "Yet he owned no land, nothing they could call theirs if the chariot came for him soon"?

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16. What does the mountain "say" to Amos?

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**Auctioned for Freedom & Evergreen Years 1794-1801, pp. 146-181**

1. Does Amos experience equality in his life? Explain your answer.

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2. Why does Celyndia sometimes feel out of place?

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3. What does the town decide to do with the Burdoo family?

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4. Why are people amazed at Amos' bid on Polly?

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5. How is the "vendue" like bidding on a slave?

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6. How is it different? \_\_\_\_\_

7. How was Polly a slave all of her life?

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8. Why does Amos think his hand was restrained on the night in the slave-trader's canoe?

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9. What does Amos see in Polly's eyes?

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10. What do we learn about Amos' health at the beginning of the last chapter?

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11. Why has Amos worked so hard all his life to free himself and others?

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12. What is Amos' wish before he dies?

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13. How does Amos handle the scene at the tavern? What would you have done?

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14. What does Amos decide to do with the money in the stone crock?

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15. What does Deacon Spofford promise Amos as he draws up his will?

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16. What two things does Amos say stand out in his life?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_