

Will Adam Enlist?

Carol Simon

There are places in this day and age where people have to fight for their rights. There are also still places where people have to make difficult decisions similar to the one that Adam Cooper, the main character in the novel April Morning by Howard Fast, has to make.

The story takes place in 1775 at the start of the Revolutionary War. Adam has to make up his mind whether or not to enlist in the militia to fight the British soldiers who have recently arrived in Boston. Adam is only fifteen years old, and his father has just been shot and killed by the British, who have marched into their hometown.

In making his decision, there are many factors that Adam has to take into consideration. He has to think about his mother, about his grandmother, about his little brother Levi, and about Ruth, the woman with whom he is in love.

As Adam goes upstairs to sleep that night, he is wondering what will happen if he goes to fight, and he is wondering what will happen if he doesn't go. On the one hand, he is probably wondering what the consequences will be to his family and to Ruth if he goes and something happens to him. He is wondering who will take care of them.

On the other hand, if Adam doesn't enlist, he will feel left out of the action. He will feel that his being there could have made a difference in the outcome of their fight for freedom and for what is

theirs. Staying home would not make him feel comfortable at all.

Adam feels a sense of loyalty to his family, to his father, who died defending their land, and to the colonies. He also knows what his father would have wanted him to do.

Just before Adam goes to bed that night, he is questioned by his grandmother about whether or not he is going to join the other men in the militia. Although Adam doesn't want to talk about it that night, he knows that there is no way out of making a decision. He knows that he has to decide by the morning.

What will Adam's decision be?

I feel Adam is going to sign up, to enlist. To do otherwise, Adam will feel that he is not a man and that he is going against his father's wishes and beliefs. I sense that if Adam doesn't go, he will feel that he's not taking on the responsibilities his father left him with.

More than two hundred years after the American Revolutionary War, there are still times when people have to make choices about fighting for their rights to life, liberty, and property. Like Adam's challenge, sometimes the choice involves entering the field of battle. Many others choose to join civic organizations within their hometown and get together to do, collectively, whatever it takes for the townspeople to have what they feel they deserve.

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