

Name: _____

Period: _____ Date: _____

Johnny Tremain

Part V "The Boston Observer" Homework Activity

1. In chapters one through four, we see Johnny experience a fall from being the most valuable member of the Lapham family to being on trial for the theft of Merchant Lyte's cup. Part V marks the point where Johnny begins to put his life back together. What are two different examples from this chapter that show Johnny is changing for the better?

1.

2.

2. Read the following observation Johnny makes about his own personality and Rab's:

"Although Rab would have been exactly the same if he had been the son of the wealthiest merchant or the poorest tinker in Boston, Johnny would not. When he had been the prize apprentice of Hancock's Wharf, the envy of all the other masters, the principal bread-winner of the Laphams (and he knew it), he had been quite a different boy from the arrogant, shabby young tramp of late summer and early fall. Those marketwomen who had counted their pats of butter after he brushed past their stands, Mrs. Lapham with her prophecies that he would end on the gallows, had not been so far wrong. For a little while it had been touch-and-go with him. If pushed a little farther, he might have taken to crime—because that was what was expected of him. But no matter what happened to Rab, good or bad fortune, good or bad reputation, he would never change." (126 – 127)

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote:

"It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude"

How does the Emerson quote connect with the quote from *Johnny Tremain*?

In what ways could the Emerson quote guide your own decisions? Give an example to support your thoughts.