

Answers Chapter Seventeen

Man of Honor

1. Many opposed him because he was pro-Union.
2. For their protection from angry Texans
3. 1857; 1859
4. Driver, all-purpose body servant/ house servant
5. Neighbors was shot from behind, in the back.
6. Members of the Texas legislature were unfriendly to Houston and didn't vote him funds for furniture.
7. With the 2nd cavalry gone, marauding Comanche were back
8. The Union party
9. The election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency
10. He prayed fervently for his country
11. Lincoln offered Houston troops to keep Texas in the Union but the offer was refused.
12. A clergyman who had heard his father speak in the U. S. Senate
13. He freed his slaves
14. The ring his mother had given him which was inscribed, "Honor"

Discussion/Essay:

1. Major Neighbors constantly sought peace between the red man and the whites of Texas. He was misunderstood as were others (including Houston) who cared for the fate of the Indians. As a Christian he could do no less, but it took strong conviction and perseverance to continue to walk this lonely path. His actions resulted in an untimely death at the hands of a coward.
2. The dangers of disunion were ever in the forefront of Houston's mind. He could see that a "civil war" would be disastrous. So he flung himself back into the political arena, hoping to stop or temper the influence of those whom he viewed as demagogues.
3. Houston pointed out that it was contradictory to secede as a consequence of a lawful, constitutional election. He elevated the Union and the Constitution above Lincoln in his speeches.
4. There are several possible arguments students could use. One, Houston had seen battle; he had no love for war and simply wanted to stay out. A more likely argument would be that he could not take up arms against fellow Texans (this would be closer to Robert E. Lee's justification for sticking with Virginia against the Union). Another reason is that by trying to keep Texas in the Union by force, it would merely make things worse. Any sensible reason can be accepted.
5. Houston saw the very structure of the Confederacy as unstable because it was based on the right of the states to secede. In effect, they were all sovereign states. Other Texans saw the war as of short duration, and their enthusiasm blinded them to reality. They could not see, as Houston did, that it would be a long, awful, bloody war. Because this is not a class on American History, you may simply choose to direct the students to relevant quotes in the text. But you should be able to direct them to see that Houston was correct in his predictions.
6. Houston treated his slaves well. He taught Jeff to read. It is revealing that Eliza did not want "emancipation." All slaves wanted freedom in the abstract, but Eliza was afraid of what it would mean to her personally. She clearly loved the Houstons and their children, and was afraid that she would be sent away.