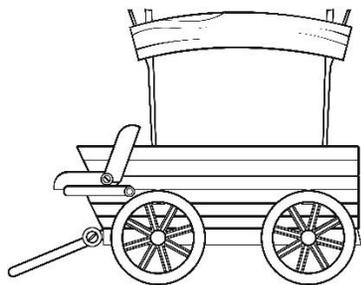
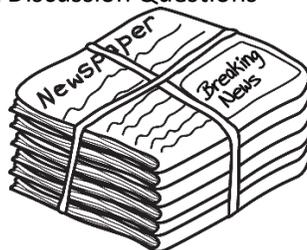


News of the World

1



Book Discussion Questions

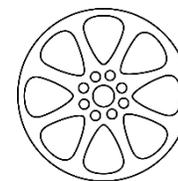


Note: The *News of the World Book* by Paulette Jiles does include discussion questions in the back of the book. Additionally, the following may also be used.

1. Captain Kidd fought in two wars, lived through another, lost his printing business, and was a widower. How was he now earning a living? What were several things involved in his job? Why did he have to take special care of his appearance?
2. Who is Britt Johnson, and how did he ask for help? Why couldn't he take care of the issue himself? How did he help the Captain with his gun?
3. What did you think of the lack of punctuation throughout the book? Did you find it added to the style or not?
4. Why didn't the Kiowa want the girl anymore? Did Three Spotted want her?
5. How could Captain Kidd be elected sergeant and know nothing about the position?
6. What was the best job he ever had?
7. What illusion did the Captain have from the ages of 49 through 65?
8. What was the one familiar thing to Johanna after the catastrophic change in her life? Did she cry at first or much? What had she endured in her short life?
9. What was traveling in the wagon like? How did they cross rivers? Could they eat in restaurants? Why else was the trip difficult?
10. Who was Mrs. Gannet? How did she help Johanna? What had happened by the time they saw her on the return trip?
11. Explain why the dimes were doubly crucial in the story.
12. What happened to other returned captives?
13. Explain what happened to the chickens and how Johanna got some clothing. Why did the Captain send money back to pay for the chickens?
14. What were some indications that foreshadowed what happened after Johanna stayed with her aunt and uncle?
15. Discuss the ending where we learn about the future of Johanna and the Captain's family. Did you like learning more about their lives?



NEWS OF THE WORLD



Movie Discussion Questions

The movie was substantially different from the book. However, the story was similar, although the details were not.

1. What war(s) had Captain Kidd fought? How did he feel about his participation?
2. How did he meet Johanna? Britt Johnson was not a character in the movie. At first, Captain Kidd was only going to take Johanna to someone else who might take her to her aunt and uncle. Why did that plan fail?
3. It seemed for a good portion of the movie his wife might be alive? Did you think he was going to talk to her?
4. Mrs. Gannet did not help much with Johanna in the film. Who was she? Why was the fact she spoke Kiowa important?
5. Along the way, the Captain and Johanna braved wild west encounters. Describe what happened. How did the dimes help save their lives? Were you surprised by some of what happened? Did these events seem to bind Johanna and the Captain?
6. If you read the book, what were some of the many differences between it and the movie? What were some book scenes left out that perhaps would have been good to include?
7. The scene where Johanna is yelling across the river to the Kiowa she wanted to go home was sad. The scene where Johanna visits the empty house is touching. The scene where Johanna speaks with Kiowa in the dust storm ends better than the Captain thought it would. How did these scenes tug at the Captain's heart?
8. Describe the aunt and uncle. Why was their home not suitable for Johanna?
9. Who did the Captain visit in San Antonio? Then what did he do?
10. When he galloped back to the aunt and uncle, did you anticipate the ending? Why was it important that even then, he gave her a choice?

Name _____ Date _____

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