

**Spoiler Alert!**

If you haven't read the book, you may not want to proceed.

# Pompey Hollow Road

by **Julie Oleszek**

## Book Club Questions

1. James purchases Simone and Rachel (though he wasn't in the market for slaves) because he assumed they were sisters and feared a buyer might separate them. Do you think this was sincerely James's reasoning for purchasing these two girls? Explain.
2. What provisions were the slaves of Huntington Manor given that would be considered luxuries on other plantations?
3. Charlotte didn't consider skin color a barrier to her and Simone's friendship. To Simone, the social division was clear. How did this shape the two girls throughout their childhood? Were there specific moments when Charlotte and Simone's friendship deepened for each other, genuinely making them kindred spirits?
4. It is clear Thomas loves his family and feels very responsible for them. Why do you think he joined the Confederate Army after all?
5. At what point in the story does Rosalie realize her death is closing in on her? What actions does she take to secure her family?
6. What is Henry's significant role in this novel?
7. Why do you think Uncle Warren and Aunt Sarah kept the truth of aiding fugitive slaves from Charlotte for so long?
8. Charlotte changes from an innocent girl in Virginia to a determined woman in Syracuse. What events changed this for Charlotte? And how?

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9. Who do you think was the most significant character in Pompey Hollow Road? Why?
10. Lars despises Thomas. In chapter 47, Lars states, "Yeah! I'd save Mast'r James if he got into trouble, but Thomas, nah! He ain't nothin' like his old man." Explain what was so different between Thomas and James.
11. As the reader, we don't know what determined Rachel's decision to flee Huntington Manor with the other slaves or to return with Tilby and wait for Hanah's return. What do you think was Rachel's reasoning? What do you think were her emotions? How do you believe she coped knowing she would probably never see Hanah again?