

Threads of War and Growth Answer Key

(Sample Responses)

Theme 1: Loyalty

- Text Evidence: Bill explains to Jethro why he must join the Confederacy even though it hurts his family.
- Short Response: Loyalty is complicated for Jethro because he loves Bill but also supports the Union. He learns that loyalty does not always mean agreement—it can mean respecting choices even when they are painful.

Theme 2: Loss

- Text Evidence: The Creightons lose Tom in the war and Ellen grieves deeply.
- Short Response: The family learns to carry on after devastating loss, supporting one another through grief. Jethro especially feels the weight of loss as he takes on more adult responsibilities.

Theme 3: Family

- Text Evidence: Jethro's father becomes ill, so Jethro must manage the farm.
- Short Response: Family pushes Jethro to mature, as he works hard to protect them during difficult times. The closeness of his family gives him strength even when the war divides and hurts them.