Fever 1793

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Vocabulary & Terms

Name: ________________________
Chapter 1

shift – undershirt worn by women under their dresses
stays – corset worn under clothing
blacksmith – someone who makes objects out of iron
anvil – heavy iron block on which heated metals are hammered into shape

Chapter 2

grippe – contagious viral disease
butter churn – a device used to make cream into butter
hearth – floor of a fireplace extending into a room
spirits – alcoholic beverage
victuals – food supplies
Quakers – a religious group who was against slavery
supped – sipped or took a spoonful
lather – extremely agitated (annoyed)
forge – place where a blacksmith works
musket – long-barreled gun
pestle – tool used to grind a substance
mob cap – soft cloth cap worn by women
apothecary – pharmacy

Chapter 3

peckish – cranky or irritable
Chapter 4

yarn – a long adventure story
filly – young girl
miasma – poisonous germs polluting an area
noxious - harmful
bilious – excess of bile from the liver
balderdash – non-sense
Indian pudding – dessert made with cornmeal
oyster loaf – hollowed out French bread filled with oysters

Chapter 5

strongbox – lock box to hold money
fervent – enthusiastic
necessary – toilet
pippin – round
savory – a spice
hoe cake – unleavened cake made with flour or cornmeal, cooked on a hoe
larder - pantry
pleurisy – inflammation of the pleura (surrounding lungs)
rambles – wandering
pepperpot – soup or stew
liebchen – German word meaning “sweetheart”
knobbly - bumpy
scamp – mischievous person
scoundrel – dishonorable person
impudence - shamelessness
mutton – sheep
ninny – fool

Chapter 6

mangle – machine for pressing clothes
clotheshorse – frame for hanging wet laundry
droll – amusing
windfall – good fortune
fripperies – old clothes
addle-pated – confused
huzzah – a cheer
spinster – single woman beyond usual marrying age
Chapter 7

brocaded – elaborately designed
bombazine – silk fabric
hovels – small dirty huts

Chapter 8

din – loud, confused noise
harrumphed – cleared throat
gumption – initiative, courage
squall – cry out
broadsheet – newspaper
almshouse – private house for the sick or poor
pestilence – deadly, epidemic disease
constable – police officer

Chapter 9

fractious – stubborn, difficult
myrrh – part of a plant that was believed to have healing powers
clothespress – wardrobe closet

Chapter 10

bunkum - humbug
jalap – dried plant root
calomel – powder used as medicine made of mercurous chloride
cajoling – persuading
valise – small suitcase or travel bag

Chapter 11

odiferous – having an odor

Chapter 12

skirmish – a fight between small groups of troops

Chapter 13

brambles – rough, prickly shrub
brown betty – dessert made with fruit
flint – a piece of hard stone used to start a fire
tinder – any dry substance that readily takes fire from a spark
**Chapter 14**

Arrêtez-vous – You, stop!
scabbard – holder for a sword
slovenly – messy, dirty, careless
magpies – talkative person, chatterbox

**Chapter 15**
famished – extremely hungry
jaundiced – yellow discoloration on the skin
snippet – small or insignificant person
impudence – offensive, bold behavior

**Chapter 16**
vacantly - empty
glaziers – people who fit windows
placid – calm, peaceful
abates – ends, removes
dowry – money or a gift that a wife brings to her husband at marriage
scullery maid – low ranked servant who works and cleans in the kitchen

**Chapter 17**
helter-skelter – out of order, messy
mite – a small bit
invalid – a sick person
pence – a sum of money, plural of penny
shillings – coins
yowl – a long cry, howl
varmints – pests, animals that are a nuisance

**Chapter 18**
urchin – small mischievous child

**Chapter 19**
trifling – of little importance, worthless
brandish – to shake or wave a weapon
haint – lost soul, ghost
scuttled – hurried

**Chapter 20**
shroud – a cloth used to wrap the dead for burial
sniveling – crying, whining
exorbitant – outrageous, extreme
sodden – soaked
satchel – small bag

Chapter 21
relish – enjoy, take pleasure in
hardtack – cracker or biscuit
wraith – ghostlike image of someone
coverlet – top cover of a bed

Chapter 22
cooper – a person who repairs barrels
cooperage – business where a cooper works

Chapter 23
solemn – serious
turncoat – a person who changes to the opposite party
harried – troubled
imp – a mischievous child, little devil

Chapter 24
casks – container made and shaped like a barrel
scurrilous - abusive
gilt – layer of gold

Chapter 25
jostled – pushed, shoved
putrid - rotten
ominous - threatening
poultice – soft, moist mass of cloth applied to the body

Chapter 26
fetid stench – stinking odor, terrible smell
rapscallions - rascals
wares - goods
vigilant – wide-awake, alert
haberdasher – dealer who sells men’s clothing
Chapter 27

gaunt – extremely thin and bony
feign – pretend

Chapter 28

handbill – printed advertisement or announcement
flitted – passed by quickly

Chapter 29

bunkum - nonsense

Epilogue

trundle bed – low bed on small wheels
unison – exactly, at the same time
begrudge – to be reluctant to give
idleness – laziness

trundle bed