

Reading Guide for the Cherry Orchard Selection from Mason L. Weems' Life of Washington

1. This account of Washington's early life is a parable (a story that teaches a moral virtue). What moral virtues does it teach?
2. Weems made up this portion of Washington's life. Why is this ironic?
3. How do stories such as this one cause Washington to lose his humanity?

Reading Guide for "George Washington's Desperate Prayer"

4. Why did Washington exaggerate the conditions at Valley Forge?
5. Who created the story of Washington's prayer at Valley Forge?
6. According to the author of this essay, what were conditions really like for Washington's army at Valley Forge?
7. Why is it strange that a chapel was created honoring George Washington praying at Valley Forge?
8. According to the author, are non-Christians a new phenomenon in American history?
9. What was Weems' purpose in creating this story?
10. What does the Brinkley, the author of your textbook say about Washington at Valley Forge?
11. What does the Brinkley say about Mason L. Weems?
12. Why is the myth of winter at Valley Forge still taught as real history today?