

LEXINGTON

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What surprised you about the history of horseracing in America when you read *Lexington*?
2. Horses are often thought of in conjunction with war because they have generally been reliable for transportation and moving materials, as well as accessible wherever an army finds itself. Still, were you surprised to learn about the Civil War's brutal impact on horses, especially that over a million horses and mules were killed in battle?
3. Lexington was one of the most successful sires of all time, producing over 200 winners and a powerful bloodline—including being the father of Cincinnati, President Grant's favorite mount during the Civil War and the ancestor of twelve out of thirteen Triple Crown winners. Although he lived long ago, do you think Lexington has had an impact on modern racing? How so?
4. How does race factor in sports, particularly horse racing, both then and now? Were you surprised to learn about the history of Black jockeys?
5. Were you surprised to learn about the rigorous heats and distances horses ran in the 1800s? What improvements has horse racing made since Lexington's time?
6. Why do you think Lexington's story was "lost" for so long?
7. Do you ride horses? Is there a special horse you share(d) a connection with? What makes the connection between horse and human so special?
8. How does *Lexington* compare to other famous horse stories?

