

CLASSROOM COPY

BFP One-Pager (Minor Character)

Title: Chains

Author: Laurie Halse-Anderson

Date started: 11/12/12 Date completed: 11/12/12 Pages read: 300

Rating of book (1-10, with 10 being the best): 8

On the back of this paper, describe a minor character in the book who had major importance. Explain. Develop your ideas clearly and fully using relevant text-based facts, concrete details, quotations, or other examples.

Author's purpose: Entertain and inform. This is an historical fiction that puts the reader in the perspective of a young slave girl - during the American Revolution.

Intended audience: Young Adults: this seems excellent for Junior High students who are studying American History and the American Revolution.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

By signing below, I verify I have read the book, and the information on this page is accurate.

Signature: *Shelly K. Durham*

Ruth is the younger sister of Isabelle, the main character in *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson. Ruth's role is of significance because she is Isabelle's motivation throughout the book, throughout her hero's journey. At the beginning of the story, Isabelle visits her mama's grave to ask what she should do. Her mistress has passed away and she and Ruth are to be set free. However, the nephew who will inherit his aunt's estate doesn't know of this or the will. Because of Ruth, Isabelle masters the courage to ask for the freed promised, but to no avail.

Each hurdle thrown into their path, thereafter, becomes a challenge that Isabelle must face because of her sister. Ruth, being not only young and small, is also fragile because of her "fits" or which seem to be epileptic seizures. Isabelle describes her sister: "I pulled her toward me and patted her back. Ruth was simpleminded and prone to fits, which spooked ignorant folks. Noise could bring them on, as well as excitement. She was in the middle of both."

Isabelle tries to protect her sister from their new mistress's harshness and eventually must risk her life to save her.