

*Give Me Liberty*

L.M. Elliott

**Reviewed by: Jacqueline Tao, 15**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Historical fiction novel *Give Me Liberty* by L.M. Elliott follows the life of Nathaniel Dunn, a thirteen-year-old indentured servant from England, and the tough decisions that he is faced with when Patriots and Loyalists are torn by the eruption of the American Revolution. Originally working for Owen, a carriage maker, he meets Basil, a schoolteacher who takes care of him and educates him. As rising tension in Nathaniel's pre-revolutionary environment mounts, he is inevitably drawn into the issue. He is faced with moral choices regarding the war that challenge his young mind to consider his values in life.

Author L.M. Elliott incorporates numerous elements of high-quality narration as well as thorough historical analysis into this rich work. Her characters are well-crafted and well-developed, absorbing the reader's attention. They respond and change realistically based on their environment, and character-to-character relations help to accentuate the emotions of that tense time period, be it the harshness of a master or a loyalty of a loved mentor in a time of need. The courage and maturity that the young Nathaniel is suddenly thrust into because of the difficult choices he makes provide a sharp contrast to the comparatively easy lives of many of our modern youth. As this book is mostly suitable for students grades 5-8, it provides for them valuable historical insight that might also coincide with their school curriculum. In this engaging narrative, the author weaves in meticulous details and paints a true picture of the difficulty and tension of life during the Revolutionary War. In addition, the authors very cleverly includes an underlying theme and topic for thought in the book in which she questions the legitimacy of either side's complaints against the other. She provides a fresh and innovative point of view to the matter and picks on the question of what liberty really means. Overall, this historical novel provides an educational, scope-widening, and engaging read.