

## Discussion Questions for *John Adams*, by David McCullough

1. What was the most surprising thing you learned about John Adams?
2. How would you describe his character? Warm and friendly or Cold and reserve? Humble and uncertain or Arrogant and self confident? Other?
3. How did others see him?
4. No one is "best" at everything they do. In what role did Adams make his most successful contribution to the American "cause" as -- a) political theorist? b) an organizer of the Revolution? c) a diplomat? d) President?
5. Gordon Woods in *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* argues that government in America began as a colonial monarchy (order and hierarchy as prime values), evolved into a republic (virtue or public spiritedness and liberty as prime values) and became a democracy (self-interest and equality as prime values). How would you describe Adams' political thinking?
6. How would you describe his relationship with George Washington?"
7. ... With Abigail?
8. ... With his son John Quincy?
9. ... With Jefferson?
10. What were Adams' views on slavery?
11. ..on native americans?
12. If you could invite Adams to dinner at your home what 3 questions would you ask him?