

**U.S. History & AP U.S. History**  
**2017 Summer Reading**  
**Laurel Ulrich's *A Midwife's Tale***

**Directions:** This summer, you will read Laurel Ulrich's *A Midwife's Tale*. This book received numerous awards the year it was published, including the Pulitzer Prize. According to the American Historical Association (AHA), *A Midwife's Tale* "moves students to see significance where they previously did not...[It] challenges readers to question beliefs about things they assumed to be timeless. At the same time, it reminds us that the mundane daily struggles that still define most people's lives, and particularly women's lives, have meaning."

After completing the book, answer each of the following questions in a paragraph response and bring your work to the first day of class in the fall.

***A Midwife's Tale* - Questions**

1. What does Ulrich argue or what is the goal of her book?
2. What sources (primary and secondary) does Ulrich examine to prove her argument or achieve her goal?
3. What were the roles for women and men in New England during the late 1700s/early 1800s?
4. What was the relationship between female and male health providers during this time?
5. How did Ballard, the book's protagonist, challenge and/or reinforce gender roles in early America?

**We hope you will enjoy this book and what it reveals about life in early America!**