

Breaking it down:

John Adams' diary

You'll be reading an entry from John Adams' diary, in which he describes his thoughts on the trial of Captain Preston and the British soldiers following the Boston Massacre.

Your instructions (to be completed **as you read**):

1. **Circle** or **underline** every word you don't know, right on the sheet.
 2. **Note** the most important point of each paragraph **with a star**.
 3. After reading each paragraph, try to visualize what's being said. What do you see in your mind? Does what you're reading remind you of anything? What's confusing to you? Can you predict what you'll read next?
 - a. **Circle** one of the prompts below
 - b. **Write** what you're thinking. Sentence fragments and notes are OK here, but be sure to organize your thoughts.
 4. **Summarize** the paragraph **with a sentence** of your own.
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Paragraph 1:

I predict / visualize / am reminded of / am confused by

This paragraph says...

Paragraph 2:

I predict / visualize / am reminded of / am confused by

This paragraph says...

Paragraph 3:

I predict / visualize / am reminded of / am confused by

This paragraph says...

Paragraph 4:

I predict / visualize / am reminded of / am confused by

This paragraph says...

From the diary of John Adams

written March 5, 1773

1

"I . . . devoted myself to endless labour and Anxiety if not to infamy and death, and that for nothing, except, what indeed was and ought to be all in all, sense of duty. In the Evening I expressed to Mrs. Adams all my Apprehensions: That excellent Lady, who has always encouraged me, burst into a flood of Tears, but said she was very sensible of all the Danger to her and to our Children as well as to me, but she thought I had done as I ought, she was very willing to share in all that was to come and place her trust in Providence.

2

"Before or after the trial, Preston sent me ten Guineas and at the trial of the Soldiers afterwards Eight Guineas more, which were . . . all the pecuniary Reward I ever had for fourteen or fifteen days labour, in the most exhausting and fatiguing Causes I ever tried: for hazarding a Popularity very general and very hardly earned: and for incurring a Clamour and popular Suspicions and prejudices, which are not yet worn out and never will be forgotten as long as History of this Period is read...It was immediately bruited abroad that I had engaged for Preston and the Soldiers, and occasioned a great clamour....

3

"The Part I took in Defence of Cptn. Preston and the Soldiers, procured me Anxiety, and Obloquy enough. It was, however, one of the most gallant, generous, manly and disinterested Actions of my whole Life, and one of the best Pieces of Service I ever rendered my Country. Judgment of Death against those Soldiers would have been as foul a Stain upon this Country as the Executions of the Quakers or Witches, anciently. As the Evidence was, the Verdict of the Jury was exactly right.

4

"This however is no Reason why the Town should not call the Action of that Night a Massacre, nor is it any Argument in favour of the Governor or Minister, who caused them to be sent here. But it is the strongest Proofs of the Danger of Standing Armies."