

NAME: _____



Activity One



Newspaper Article

Johnny Tremain finds himself falling from one of Boston's most talented young apprentices to a crippled boy without a trade. Feeling he has hit bottom, Johnny goes to see Jonathan Lyte. However, this doesn't work out for Johnny and he ultimately finds himself accused of theft.

Imagine you are one of the reporters tasked with following this developing story of a down-on-his-luck youth. Your editor has sent you out to find out whatever you can about Johnny Tremain and the events described above.

Look up a reputable news source online or consult a newspaper to help guide you on how to write a news article. The first sentence should be its own paragraph and should sum up the who, what, when, where, why and how of the story. This sentence should hook the reader and make them want to continue reading the article.

From there, work in more details about Johnny, Lyte, and the events that captured the public's attention.

Your news article should include interviews with people who know Johnny and eyewitnesses. Include quotes from these sources by using your imagination to picture what these people might say about Johnny, his past, or the events leading up to their disappearances. Your news article should include as much detail as you can from the book.

The final product should be at least 600 words long and include all of the information above. It should also have:

- At least three source interviews with quotes.
- Speculation from an expert about what might have happened.
- Comment from a police spokesperson.
- Any interesting facts about the case.
- Potential leads that police are working on.
- A lot of description about the crime scenes.

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Activity Two

Book/Movie Review



A movie or book review is meant to suggest to the reader whether or not they should see the film or read the book. It should give some detail about the story but shouldn't reveal too much or give away any of the plot twists. It should establish who the main characters are and also a little about their motivations or state of mind.

In this activity you will write a review of the book or, alternatively, the film based on the book.

If you choose to review the movie after finishing the book, you will need to include a paragraph or two explaining how well the movie matched the events of the book and any significant differences.

The first paragraph of your review should introduce the title of the book and author (or movie director and stars) and should briefly set the tone for the review. In other words, you should establish early on whether you did or didn't like the book/movie.

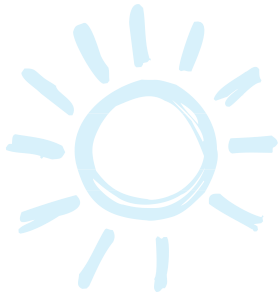
The next paragraph should include information setting up the story (Johnny Tremain is an aspiring silversmith living in 1773 Boston). Be sure to give the reader enough detail to set up the plot, but not enough to spoil anything.

The subsequent paragraphs should further explain why you did or didn't enjoy *Johnny Tremain* using specific examples from the book/movie. For example, perhaps you thought there wasn't enough action or maybe there was too much. Maybe you thought some elements were confusing. This is where you would explain all of those things.

Your final paragraph should sum up your review and reiterate whether you would or wouldn't recommend the book to someone else.

Your review should be at least 400 words in length.

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Activity Three



An Alternate Ending

As *Johnny Tremain* approaches its end, an injured Rab sends Johnny off on a trip to Silsbee's Cove to see if the women have come back from hiding. He expects Johnny will find Grandsire Silsbee there as well, as he has said he would not hide and would sit it out in his own home. When Johnny gets to Silsbee's Cove, he finds it deserted. When he returns, Doctor Warren informs Johnny that Rab has died. Doctor Warren tells Johnny that Rab knew his time was near when he sent Johnny away. At the end of the book Johnny reflects on what is happening and hopes there will always be people to stand up when required. He knows the idea they are fighting for will live although many might die.

Was this ending satisfying for you? Perhaps you had an ending in mind, but the story went in another direction. Here's your chance to end the book the way you want to. In this bonus activity, you will be tasked with writing an alternate ending to *Johnny Tremain*.

Before you begin writing, take some time to think about what you want your characters to do. Jot down some notes about what you want to happen in the story. What should happen instead? Are there any more action points or plot twists you would like to include? Once you have established where you want your story to go, you can begin writing.

Make sure your alternate ending stays within the established writing style. Ensure Johnny's story is wrapped up in an interesting way.

Make sure your story includes:

- At least four returning characters.
- An interesting or exciting plot twist.
- At least two new characters.
- A new setting.

Your finished product should be at least three typed, double-spaced pages in length.

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Activity Four



News Article

There are a couple of instances where Johnny and Rab could have found themselves the subject of the news rather than the ones producing and delivering it. Johnny ends up accused of theft and is facing prison or worse after visiting the Lyte family to ask for help. Rab Silsbee finds himself in a similar situation when he conspires with a local farmer to steal a British musket.

Imagine you are the reporter tasked with tracking down one of these stories. You can choose which story you would like to follow. Your editor has asked you to find out everything you can about the incident and will expect you to have interviews with people who have witnessed the events or encountered Johnny or Rab. You will use your imagination to come up with some things these people might have to say about them.

You could also imagine that you've tracked down family members or friends to ask what may have prompted him to such a thing. The story should focus on the facts of either case and the aftermath or outcome.

Your interviews with witnesses, family, or friends should include descriptive language and any pertinent information you think this person might have that could help readers understand what happened.

Your newspaper article should include:

- An interview with either Rab or Johnny.
- An interview with a person from Boston.
- An interview with a friend or family member.
- A beginning sentence that tells the reader the who, what, when where and why of the story.
- Any rumors that people in town might have heard about the boy.



You can get some ideas on how to write in newspaper style from your own local newspaper. The finished product should be about 500 words.

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Activity Five

The Paper Route



On his beautiful, but somewhat ill-tempered horse Goblin, Johnny Tremain travels around Boston and beyond delivering copies of the *Boston Observer*. While this position ultimately leads Johnny to explore the politics of Boston and the air of intrigue working with the Sons of Liberty.

However, in this task, you will attempt to focus on the route Johnny takes to deliver the newspaper.

Go back to chapter five where Johnny discusses the route he takes around Boston and the surrounding area. Note any specific towns or locations that are mentioned. Now use a large piece of blank poster board and a map to help you draw Johnny's route.

Consult some old maps or do some research online to help you depict how Boston would have looked on a map in 1773. Try to make your map as realistic as possible and locate surrounding towns as close to where they would be in real life at the time.

Make sure to label your map with any important sites (Boston, *the Observer*). Indicate Johnny's actual route through these towns with a dotted or dashed line. Additionally, your map should have a legend to indicate any symbols.

Your map should include:

- At least three Boston landmarks mentioned in the book.
- A legend with symbols denoting things like newspapers, smiths, or merchants.
- A line indicating Johnny's route.
- Detailed drawings and color.

Ensure your map has each of these things and have fun with it.

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Activity Six



The Spy Network

In *Johnny Tremain* politics play a significant part of the story. Boston in 1773 was a turbulent time. Tories loyal to Britain and patriot Whigs battle in the political arena as well as in the streets. Things come to a head with Britain's plan to impose a small tax on tea. Whigs oppose the tax on the grounds that they should not have to pay without having any representation in British Parliament.

These events are underscored by a growing underground movement of resistance. The Sons of Liberty, a secret organization formed to fight for the rights of European colonists and to fight the taxation, initiate the Boston Tea Party. A shipment of tea is dumped into Boston Harbor. Tensions rise.

As the coming conflict builds, the Sons of Liberty realize the importance of information and decide a spy network is needed. This network is formed by Paul Revere.

In this activity, your task will be to imagine the threads that tie this network together. You may have seen in television shows or movies that when a character is trying to connect people or events, they will set up a board with photographs, names, and other information. This information is then connected via string or yarn tied around push pins. You will do exactly this with Paul Revere's spy network.

Get a blank piece of poster board and print some small labeled photos of people you think should be included in this spy network. Locate the more important figures in the network at the top.

As your network spreads out, it should begin to look like a web or roots. Remember, characters and events can have multiple connections, so your network should have some lines that cross one another.

