

BOSTON

TEA

PARTY

READERS'

THEATER





The Magic Trunk

Characters

Brittany
Spectator One

Josh
Spectator Two

Anna
Narrator

Narrator: Like many other Saturdays, Josh, Anna, and Brittany were beginning to get bored and had found themselves in the attic of Josh's home, where an old trunk held treasures that often led them on exciting adventures.

Anna: Well, here we are again. I swear it seems every time we open this trunk we discover more treasures.

Josh: I agree. Just be careful not to grab any of them too quickly.

Brittany: You know the old saying: See with your eyes and not your hands! I think it will be safer that way.

Anna: Oh, come on Brittany. You know you enjoy our adventures as much as Josh and I do. Think of all the exciting places we have been because of this magic trunk.

Josh: Think of the history we have had a chance to see. Just talking about it makes me ready for our next journey.

Brittany: You guys promised that we would just come up and check out the trunk. No time travel today! I have soccer practice at 3:00!

Anna: Seriously, you would rather go to soccer practice than travel to another place and time? That is so lame.

Brittany: You might think it is lame, but I happen to like my predictable life. I'm just not a thrill seeker like you two.

Narrator: While Brittany continues to try and convince the pair that it is better to stay in present time where she is sure to make soccer practice, Josh begins to eye a particularly interesting item in the trunk.

Josh: Hey, check this out! It is a bag of something, but it's hard to tell what it is unless I pick it up.

Anna: Go ahead. Pick it up. I'm ready for some action!

Brittany: That bag seems a little mysterious. If you insist on doing this, pick something that you can identify. I would like to have some idea about where we will end up.

Narrator: Before Brittany can protest anymore, Anna grabs the mysterious bag out of the trunk. A thick fog covers the attic and their surroundings become very still. The air is thick with the sound of cheering and as the fog clears, a crowd is seen in the distance.

Brittany: Thanks for the warning guys! That seems to be one angry mob of people. Couldn't you just once pick an item out of that trunk that landed us in a peaceful place?

Anna: What fun would that be?

Josh: Come on you two. Let's go see what all the noise is about.

Narrator: As the trio approaches they identify three ships in a harbor. They have arrived in Boston, Massachusetts. A crowd of people have gathered around and are cheering.

Brittany: I wonder what is going on. What is the crowd so excited about?

Anna: Maybe those ships are going to race around the harbor.

Josh: I doubt that. Look over by the first ship. There seems to be a group of Indians.

Brittany: This seems a strange place for a tribe of Indians.

Anna: I agree and did you see what they're wearing? I would have thought they could have dressed a little better for the occasion. Not to mention it is a bit chilly out here.

Josh: Come on, let's go figure out what is going on.

Narrator: As they approach the crowd, they overhear a conversation between two spectators.

Spectator One: They're boarding the ships. I hope they show them we're tired of taxation without representation.

Spectator Two: Not only do we not have a say in what they tax, but now they are telling us we can only buy our tea from East India Company so they can collect the tax on the tea to pay all their debts.

Narrator: The crowd cheers loudly as the tea is being dumped into the Boston Harbor.

Spectator One: They're doing it! Those Sons of Liberty sure know how to make their point.

Spectator Two: They are taking a stand for all of us!

Narrator: Both spectators cheer as 342 crates of tea are split open with tomahawks and dumped into the harbor.

Josh: Excuse me, can you fill me in on what is going on here. We aren't from around here.

Spectator One: Those three British ships are loaded with tea from the East India Company. British government has decided that the colonies can only buy certain tea. The government has placed a tax on the tea in order for them to pay debts.

Brittany: Why are Indians dumping the tea? It seems to me that the colonists should be the ones who are protesting the tax on tea.

Spectator Two: Those aren't really Indians; they are a group of patriots who call themselves the Sons of Liberty. They meet regularly to find ways to protect our rights as citizens.

Spectator One: The British government continually places taxes on everyday items. We are tired of it. These men are rebelling against these taxes to show the British government that colonists have rights!

Anna: That sure is a lot of tea! I've always wanted to attend a tea party! This is kind of exciting.

Spectator Two: It will probably get even more exciting when the British government finds out about this little tea party.

Spectator One: We hope now they know this is serious and we refuse to feel obligated to pay taxes imposed by a government in which we have no representation.

Josh: We'll hope for your sake it works out that way, but I wouldn't bet on it.

Brittany: This might just add fuel to the fire.

Spectator Two: You may be right, but we are willing to fight for our rights.

Spectator One: We will continue to rebel until our voices are heard!

Narrator: The spectators continue to chant and cheer with the growing crowd. The seemingly, never ending crates of tea continue to be destroyed and tossed into the harbor.

Anna: Well, I think I know the mysterious contents of this bag.

Brittany: Yeah, I think that one is a no brainer.

Josh: The question is; what do we do with it? We have to return it to its owner before we can return home.

Anna: I know what to do.

Narrator: Anna makes her way through the crowd and tosses the tea into the harbor. She makes her way back through the crowd to find Brittany and Josh.

Brittany: Now that we have returned the tea, we should be able to return home. If we hurry, I can make soccer practice.

Narrator: They join hands and repeat the familiar chant that will return them home safely.

Josh, Brittany, and Anna: *Magic Trunk, hear our plea, deliver us home safely.*

Narrator: The fog slowly rises to gather the trio and as it fades along with the noise of the Boston crowd, Josh, Brittany, and Anna find themselves back in the attic.

Josh: It's good to be home.

Anna: Yeah, I guess, but it was more exciting in Boston. I wonder sometimes if these events hadn't have happened, would we still be ruled by England?

Brittany: It is quite possible. It is crazy to think the impact that one event could have had on our lives today.

Josh: We really do take our freedoms for granted. It is because of the brave people in our history, like the Sons of Liberty, that we can enjoy the rights we have today.

Brittany: Well said, Josh. That being said, I am now going to go exercise my right to play soccer! See you guys later.

Narrator: The three leave the attic until it is time for their next adventure.



Task Card

Research facts about the Boston Tea Party and create a “Did You Know?” poster. Make the poster visually appealing. Present the information to the class.



Task Card

Work with a partner or small group to research the grievances colonists had against the British government. Also, research the point of view of the British government. Create a list of justifications for each of their actions. Choose a person to represent the point of view of the colonists and a person to represent the British government. Perform a debate.

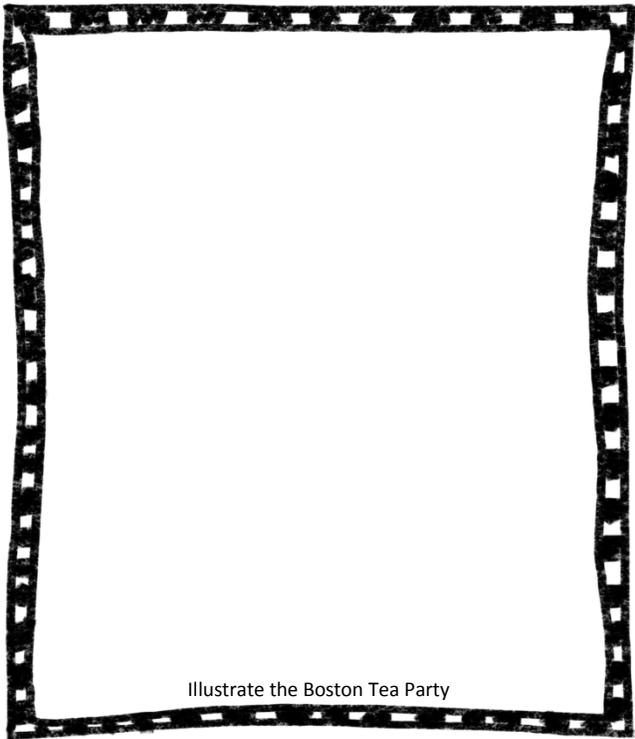


Task Card

The tax placed on tea was just one example of the British governments rule over the colonists. Find other examples where the colonists were dissatisfied with the British government. Research the events or situations that caused problems between the colonists and British government. Take on the role as a news reporter and write a script to follow as you report one or more of these events to the class.

Date

Name of Newspaper



(picture to the left)

SONS OF LIBERTY

Who were these mystery men?

Common Core Reading Informational Text: Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.

Definitions

Firsthand account: A written observation of an event by someone who participated or observed the event firsthand.

Secondhand account: An account of an event written by a person who has researched, in great detail, the person or event. It is a retelling of an event by someone who did not witness the event

Activity Overview:

Provide students with a copy of the firsthand account of the Boston Tea Party provided below. Also provide one of the articles provided written from a secondhand account. Pass out the following page and work together with students to identify the similarities and differences between the two pieces.

*Note: This can be assigned as an individual assignment depending on the background knowledge of your students and abilities.

Firsthand account: <http://blog.worldoffineteas.com/2008/12/boston-tea-party-first-hand-account.html#!/2008/12/boston-tea-party-first-hand-account.html>

Secondhand Account:

<http://www.kidport.com/reflib/usahistory/AmericanRevolution/TeaParty.htm>

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/bostonteparty.htm>

Definitions

Firsthand account: A written observation of an event by someone who participated or observed the event firsthand.

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In the table below, record information about each article. Note the description and details given. What is the focus of each piece?

Firsthand Account	Secondhand Account
<p>How did the author make you feel?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>How did the author make you feel?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>What descriptive words were used by the author ?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>What descriptive words were used by the author?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>How were the two pieces alike? _____</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<p>How were the two pieces different? _____</p> <hr/> <hr/>	

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