

a reader's theater
Presentation of

- *3 reading levels!
- *26 characters!

- *Builds fluency
- *Perfect for 3rd-5th



The Midnight Ride of
Paul Revere!

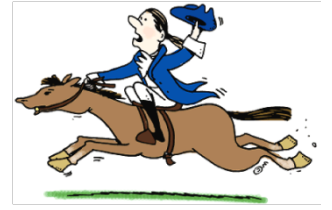
Thank you for downloading my Reader's Theater featuring the amazing bravery and importance of Paul Revere! I've included 26 parts to ensure participation for your whole group, with lines leveled by amount/ difficulty for better differentiation!

Leveled Cast List:

(6 low parts, 14 middle parts, 6 high parts)

- Narrator 1 (middle) _____
- Patrick Henry (middle) _____
- Representative 1 (middle) _____
- Representative 2 (low) _____
- Representative 3 (middle) _____
- Representative 4 (low) _____
- Narrator 2 (middle) _____
- Narrator 3 (middle) _____
- Samuel Adams (high) _____
- John Hancock (high) _____
- Colonist 1 (low) _____
- Colonist 2 (middle) _____
- Colonist 3 (low) _____
- Colonist 4 (middle) _____
- Redcoat (middle) _____
- Narrator 4 (middle) _____
- Narrator 5 (high) _____
- Paul Revere (high) _____
- William Dawes (high) _____
- Narrator 6 (middle) _____
- Patriot (middle) _____
- Narrator 7 (middle) _____
- Villager 1 (low) _____
- Villager 2 (low) _____
- Narrator 8 (middle) _____
- Narrator 9 (high) _____

The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere!



Cast of Characters:

Narrator 1
Patrick Henry
Representative 1
Representative 2
Representative 3
Representative 4
Narrator 2
Narrator 3
Samuel Adams

John Hancock
Colonist 1
Colonist 2
Colonist 3
Colonist 4
Redcoat
Narrator 4
Narrator 5
Paul Revere

William Dawes
Narrator 6
Patriot
Narrator 7
Villager 1
Villager 2
Narrator 8
Narrator 9

SCENE 1: A meeting room in Philadelphia, 1774

Narrator 1: The Boston Tea Party of 1774 did more than just boycott tea from Great Britain. It sparked a great deal of interest among the colonists for creating a new country completely free of Great Britain. The 13 colonies sent representatives to meet with each other in what became known as the Continental Congress.

Patrick Henry: Gentlemen, thank you for coming today. We need to discuss our future relationship with Great Britain. It is clear from the Boston Tea party that many colonists are fed up with all of these unfair taxes. They are being placed on all of our most needed items!

Representative 1: I agree with you, Mr. Henry! Great Britain has really been treating our colonies poorly. How long does the King expect us just to keep supporting his country when we have no voice in any decisions? I say it's time for King George to listen to us for a change!

Representative 2: Let's go get him! We'll tie him up and make him listen!

Representative 3: Now, now John! Let's not get violent! We'll write to him and explain how we feel. Maybe he will understand that we need a little more freedom to make some of our own decisions. Someone fetch me some parchment paper and my feather pen!

Representative 2: If he doesn't respond to our letter, I say we go get him! We should fight England for our freedom if he doesn't budge at all!

Representative 4: I agree with John. No more kings or queens for us!

Narrator 2: The Continental Congress managed to write a letter to King George. They explained how they felt about being ruled unfairly by England. The King did not respond in a positive way, however. In fact, he sent more British soldiers to keep the colonists under control. This only made the colonists angrier and more determined to fight for their freedom!

SCENE 2: Lexington, Massachusetts 1775

Narrator 3: Samuel Adams is one of the colonists very angered by King George's refusal to grant the colonies any freedom from his unfair rule. He has gathered his friend, John Hancock, and some other residents of Lexington to discuss the situation.

Samuel Adams: Hello, friends. I'm glad you could come and meet with me. We will have to be brief, however. Look at all these Redcoats walking through our town! They won't like that we're meeting!

John Hancock: You're right, Sam. Let's get right to the point. I think I speak for all of us when I say that I'm ready to stand by my fellow colonists and fight for the freedom we deserve!

Colonist #1: Here, here! Let's get those Redcoats!

Colonist #2: Shhhh! We don't want to draw any attention just yet. We're going to have to prepare. There are only a few of us and tons of them! We will have to be very organized and well informed! Our minutemen will need to know at a moment's notice when they are needed!

Colonist #3: How can we make sure all of our brave volunteers know when they are needed? They are spread all throughout our villages and towns!

- Colonist #4: We need someone who will serve as a spy on the British in order to gain this type of information. We also need to rely on that person to provide everyone that information in a timely manner . It will be a dangerous and risky job. Does anyone know of a man suitable for this task?
- John Hancock: I know a man in Boston that would be perfect for this job. His name is Paul Revere. He has been a spy for us for several months now. I will contact him at once. I'm sure we will be able to count on him to get us the information we need in order to begin our fight for freedom!
- Sam Adams: John, thank you! I've heard about his dedication to our colonies, also. He is known to be a brave and smart man. I think he's a perfect choice! Let's contact him at once!
- Redcoat: Hey! You colonists! You aren't supposed to be gathering like that. The King would not approve! You are to leave immediately! I demand that you break up this meeting!
- Sam Adams: We were, uh, just discussing the weather and the much needed rain. We'll be on our way now.
- Narrator 4: The colonists wink at each other behind the Redcoat's back. They are feeling good about their plan and the involvement from their fellow colonist, Paul Revere, to be on alert for any action that may occur as the tensions between the two groups grow and grow!

SCENE 3: Boston, Massachusetts

- Narrator 5: When Paul Revere was approached about helping the Colonists' cause, he immediately agreed to the dangerous job without hesitation. He spent several days slipping in and out of the places where the British soldiers held their meetings. He quietly learned about their plans to keep the colonists under British rule by force. When he gathered enough information, he decided the time had come to develop a plan with his friend and fellow spy, William Dawes.

Paul Revere: Thank you for meeting with me, Dawes. I need to talk to you about the British. They know all about the weapons our colonist friends have been gathering! They plan to attack and seize any weapons they can find in colonists' homes! They also plan on arresting our leaders like Sam Adams and John Hancock! They want to leave us completely defenseless. This can't happen! We will forever be unfairly ruled by the King if they attack us like this!

William Dawes: What can I do to help?

Paul Revere: I need you to stay here and find out how the British plan to send their Redcoats to seize the towns of Lexington and Concord. We need to have some sort of signal so that I know what to tell the colonists to best prepare them!

William Dawes: I will spy on the British headquarters and find out their plans. You go down and wait by the river. When I find out, I will have someone climb the old bell tower in the North Church. One lantern will be lit if they plan to attack by land. Two lanterns will be lit if they plan to go by sea. That will give you a head start to warn all of our friends and we will also let the minutemen know of the signal in case one of us doesn't make it! I will go another way to Lexington.

Paul Revere: That sounds like a good plan. I will go now. Thank you for your help! Take care, Dawes!

William Dawes: Thank you! And Godspeed to you, my friend!

SCENE 4: April 18, 1775; On the banks of the Charles River in Boston, Massachusetts

Narrator 6: Having made their plan, Paul Revere waits quietly in the shadows of the big Man o War British ship along the river's harbor. He is alone except for another patriot who has agreed to row him across the river. His attention is focused on the tower of the old North Church.

Patriot: Why do you keep staring at the church, sir?

Paul Revere: I am waiting for a very important signal.

Patriot: Oh, of course. I remember hearing about how some brave Patriot was going to send a signal by lantern to alert the other militia men. Hey, is that a light I see now?

Paul Revere: Yes! That's the signal....but wait! There's another light now. 2 lights! The British will be coming by sea! Row me across this river quickly! I've got to get to my horse and warn the others!

Patriot: Yes, sir! Hang on! I'm honored to help such a great cause. Anything for our freedom from the King! Here we go....we'll be on the other side in no time!

SCENE 5: April 18, 1775; at night in the countryside outside of Boston

Narrator: 7 As soon as the boat touched dry land, Paul Revere jumped out, shook the Patriot's hand, and mounted the horse that awaited him. He rode off into the countryside, headed for Lexington to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams about the British's plan to arrest them. Along the way, he warns as many colonists as he can!

Paul Revere: Giddy-up, old girl! We have to move fast! I must warn the others about the British!

Villager #1: Hey! What's all that racket out there? We're trying to sleep! It's the middle of the night!

Paul Revere: The British are coming! The British are coming!

Villager #2: We're ready for them! Thank you!

Paul Revere: Hide what you can! Ready your weapons! The British are coming! The British are coming!

SCENE 6: At the home of Samuel Adams, Lexington

Narrator 8: When he finally arrives in Lexington, Paul Revere is happy to be reunited with his fellow patriot and good friend, William Dawes. Together, they approach the home of Samuel Adams.

Paul Revere: Sam! Sam! Wake up! The British are coming!

William Dawes: They want to arrest you and take all of the important documents regarding our colonies' wishes to be free! You must let John Hancock know and leave at once!

Samuel Adams: I will alert Hancock and go at once. You men must continue to ride and warn the others about the British. Can you continue on?

Paul Revere: Of course we can! We need as many people ready for the British when they come as possible. We'll leave right away!

Samuel Adams: Thank you for your bravery, gentlemen! You will always be remembered for your midnight ride of bravery!

Narrator 9: With that, the riders headed towards Concord. They didn't get far before they were stopped by the British and taken as prisoners. But it was too late. The heroic deed of Paul Revere and his fellow riders had already been a success! The Patriots were awake, alert, and ready when the British attacked. The colonists would continue to have a long road in the fight to freedom, but they were off to a very brave start, thanks to Paul Revere!

The End!

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