

MIDNIGHT RIDE OF PAUL REVERE: READER'S THEATER

- Narrator: Our story begins in Spring of 1775 with a man named Thomas Gage.
- Thomas Gage: I am General Thomas Gage. *(Puff out your chest with your hands on your hips like Superman. Look arrogant.)*
I am the commander of the Boston Regulars and the Royal Governor of Massachusetts.
- Narrator: He had been attempting to take colonial supplies in other suburban Boston towns, such as Salem.
- Thomas Gage: *(Look off into the distance as if searching for something)* I think I will set my sights on Concord, Massachusetts. I hear the colonists are holding a large store of guns and gunpowder there.
- Narrator: Boston seems like a big city today, but in 1775 it was more like a small town. It was hard to muster 800 Redcoats and the British Navy without someone in Boston noticing. The American Spy System alerted Boston.
- Bostonians: *(In a panic, all together)* The redcoats are coming! Make haste, the redcoats are coming!
- Paul Revere: *(To Dr. Joseph Warren, panicked)* Dr. Warren, did you hear that the redcoats are approaching?
- Dr. Warren: *(Very calmly)* Indeed, I did. But have no fear, dear friend, for I know exactly where they are headed.
- Paul Revere: *(Shocked)* What? How do you know?
- Dr. Warren: I have a very reliable source... *(whisper loud enough so class can hear)* Mrs. Margaret Kemble Gage, General Gage's wife!
- Bostonians: *(Gasp)*
- Paul Revere: *(Shocked)* No way! Would she really betray her husband?
- Dr. Warren: Who cares? We have what we need! The British are moving on Concord on April 19th.
- Paul Revere: So what should we do?
- Dr. Warren: We need a plan!
- Paul Revere: Do we know how they will be traveling?
- Dr. Warren: No, that's why we need a plan.
- Paul Revere: How will we alert Concord?

Dr. Warren: *(Yelling)* I don't know! That's why we need a plan, Paul!

(Dr. Warren and Paul Revere huddle up and whisper as if forming a plan)

Narrator: The colonial spies formulated a plan to send word inconspicuously and quickly to Lexington and then Concord.

Dr. Warren would send word using the steeple of the Old North Church in Boston to signal if the British troops were marching across land or traveling by boat further inland.

This is where we get the famous saying, "One if by land, two if by sea."

If the British came by land, Dr. Warren would signal for one lantern to be lit. If they came by sea, two lanterns would be lit. As soon as word was received, Paul Revere would ride.

Paul Revere: Good plan, sir! *(pat Dr. Warren on the back)*

Dr. Warren: Indeed, good plan!

Paul Revere: What happens should I get caught?

Dr. Warren: Good point. Perhaps we did not think this through! Perhaps we need another person to ride to Lexington?

Paul Revere: My true mission is warn Sam Adams and John Hancock that the British are approaching. We cannot allow the British officials to arrest them!

William Dawes: I volunteer as tribute!

Unknown Man: I will go, too!

Dr. Warren: Excellent! Problem solved. Thank you, William Dawes.

Narrator: And just like that the evening of April 18, 1775 arrived. The British arrived by boat and travelled in the direction of Lexington and Concord.

Dr. Warren quickly lit the two lanterns in the steeple of the Old North Church.

The moment Paul Revere saw the two lanterns, he rushed home and got dressed to ride. He headed down to the river so he could start his ride.

After crossing the river, he was given a horse named Brown Beauty.

Along the way, he came across two Redcoats on patrol.

Redcoat #1: Halt!

Redcoat #2: Who goes there?

Paul Revere: Oh look! *(points off into the distance)*

(Redcoats look in the direction Paul Revere is pointing and Paul Revere slips around the two Redcoats)

Narrator: As Revere approached the house in Lexington that Sam Adams and John Hancock were hiding in, a man by the name of William Monroe was keeping guard.

William Monroe: Do not make so much noise! People are trying to sleep!

Paul Revere: Noise?! You'll have enough noise before long! The Redcoats are coming! Tell Mr. Adams and the delicious Mr. Hancock to get moving. The Redcoats are coming!

William Monroe: Yes, sir! Right away! *(enters house)*

Narrator: Just then, William Dawes rode up on his horse.

William Dawes: Do you suppose we should warn Concord, too?

Paul Revere: A wise idea, good sir.

Narrator: Dawes and Revere mounted their horses again and headed for Concord. As they were traveling, they ran into Dr. Samuel Prescott, a physician in Concord.

William Dawes: Hey there, Dr. Sam. What are you doing out so late?

Dr. Prescott: I am on my way home from a date.

Paul Revere: Ooooo. Who's the lucky lady?

Dr. Prescott: Lydia Mullikan - she's beautiful and graceful.

Narrator: Prescott, Dawes, and Revere continued to travel towards Concord, warning every house along the way. As they were moving Revere came across two more British patrolmen. They were hiding behind trees.

Paul Revere: *(yelling)* Dawes, Prescott! We have company!

Narrator: Dawes and Prescott ride up alongside Revere and advance on the two Redcoats. As they get closer, two more patrolmen emerge.

Redcoat #3: *(yelling)* STOP! If you go an inch further, you are dead men!

Narrator: The three colonists ran forward at full speed in an attempt to force passage, but were forced into a nearby pasture.

Prescott saw an opportunity to escape and called to Paul Revere,

Dr. Prescott: "Put on!

Narrator: Prescott spurred his horse, turned left into an open field, and jumped a stone wall to escape to warn Concord.

Revere turned right, which was a mistake. As he attempted to escape, six more Redcoats showed up and surrounded Revere. He was captured.

In this confusion, Dawes headed back towards the road confusing his captors by shouting,

William Dawes: Halllllloooo, my boys. I've got two of them!

Narrator: Dawes heads in the opposite direction at a full gallop. However, his horse spooks and stops abruptly, pitching him out of his saddle.