

The Reveres: A Family Forced Apart

Characters

Narrator

Rachel Revere

Paul Revere Jr.

Debby Revere

Sarah Revere

Thomas Green

Setting

This reader's theater takes place in April and May of 1775, in Boston, Massachusetts. This story is based on actual events.

Act I

Narrator: It is the morning of April 19, 1775. Paul Revere Jr. and two of his five sisters are awake early. Rachel is preparing breakfast while Sarah tends to the baby.

Rachel: Sarah, get your sisters up and ready for school.

Sarah: But Father hasn't returned yet. How can we go to school when we don't know if he's safe?

Rachel: Most people don't realize where your father went last night. Let them think things are no different for us today than they were yesterday.

Narrator: Sarah leaves the room to go wake her younger sisters.

Paul: I should stick to my routine and go to Father's silver shop today as usual, too. People will expect me to be working there as always. But I do wish we would receive word from Father first.

Debby: We'll hear from him soon enough. Here, eat your breakfast. Where did Father go this time, Mother?

Narrator: Rachel puts plates of food on the table. Sarah comes back into the room.

Rachel: Your father was sent on a very dangerous mission. As you know, the king of England has made life miserable for the colonists for a long time.

Paul: He certainly has! Many colonists are tired of paying such high taxes on goods. And now that British soldiers occupy Boston and have blockaded the port, many people grow angrier every day.

Rachel: These angry rebels have started to form small troops called militias. The rebels are prepared for possible war with England.

Sarah: But what does Father have to do with any of this? He is a silversmith, a master craftsman.

Rachel: He is also a messenger for the rebels, the Sons of Liberty.

Debby: But the king has messengers, too. He knows the rebels have been storing weapons and ammunition in Concord. Last night, the king sent British soldiers to seize those weapons. He thought the rebels would be too afraid to fight the British regulars. After all, the rebel soldiers we call minutemen are only farmers, shop owners, and simple slaves. How can they be as strong as the well-trained British regulars?

Paul: Do you mean that Father was sent to Concord last night to warn the colonists the British regulars were coming?

Rachel: Yes, I do.

Debby: Do you think the regulars have captured Father and that is why he has not returned?

Rachel: Certainly not, my dear. But he cannot return to Boston now. The regulars would throw him in jail.

Narrator: There's a knock at the door. The children look worried.

Paul: Who goes there?

Thomas: It is only I, your friend and neighbor, Thomas Green. Let me in, Paul.

Narrator: Paul opens the door. A boy about his age removes his hat and comes in.

Thomas: Good morning, all. I'm sorry to disturb your breakfast. But I bring you news. Everyone is talking about Mr. Revere and the courageous ride he took last night to warn the colonists about the regulars. He made it to Lexington, where Mr. Adams and Mr. Hancock were hiding. He got there just in time to help them escape before they could be captured.