

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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MISSION 1: "For Crown or Colony?"

Thomas Hutchinson's Diary Entry on the Seider Murder, 1770

After the killing of eleven-year-old Christopher Seider by Ebenezer Richardson, the Sons of Liberty led a large funeral procession witnessed by thousands of Bostonians. In this diary entry, Thomas Hutchinson, the Loyalist Governor of Massachusetts, somewhat cynically notes that Seider's death and funeral made good propaganda for Boston patriots.

...when the boy was killed by Richardson, the sons of liberty in Boston, if it had been in their power to have brought him to life again, would not have done it but would have chosen the grand funeral, which brought many thousands together; and the solemn procession from Liberty Tree, near which the boy's father lived, to the Town House and back to the burying ground made an inconceivable impression

Source: Cited in Sacvan Bercovitch and Cyrus R. K. Patell, eds., *The Cambridge History of American Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), 358.