

For Crown or Colony? Prologue & Part 1

Guiding Question: Why did protests against the British colonial government break out in Boston in the early 1770s?

Document Analysis

Text Analysis: “The Liberty Song” by John Dickinson, 1768

Directions: Times change and so does the style of English we speak and songs we listen to. Read the first stanza of the song in the left-hand column. Notice that someone has translated it from rhyming song lyrics that read like a poem into ordinary English prose in the right-hand column.

Your job is to read the stanza your group has been assigned and translate it into ordinary English in the right-hand column. You may use any resources you need in order to decode the lines.

Strategies to try:

- Work out loud. Try emphasizing different words.
- Divide the sentences into parts that sound like chunks of meaning and work on each, one at a time.
- Find the words and phrases you do understand to help you make sense of the ones you don't.
- Rearrange words and phrases.

“The Liberty Song,” published in the Boston Gazette in 1768, was written to be sung to the tune of a popular English tune called “Heart of Oak.” Perhaps the first patriotic song in America, its lyrics were written by John Dickinson, a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly who later fought in the Revolutionary War and became Governor of Pennsylvania.

1	Come, join hand in hand, brave Americans all, And <u>rouse</u> your bold hearts at fair Liberty's call; No <u>tyrannous</u> acts shall suppress your just claim, Or stain with dishonor America's name.	<i>Join together Americans. Awaken your brave hearts because liberty is calling you. The actions of a dictator cannot keep you from getting what is rightfully yours or humiliate us.</i>
2	Chorus: In Freedom we're born and in Freedom we'll live. Our <u>purses</u> are ready. Steady, friends, steady; Not as slaves, but as <u>Freemen</u> our money we'll give.	
3	Our worthy forefathers, let's give them a cheer,	

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	<p>To climates unknown did courageously steer; <u>Thro'</u> oceans to deserts for Freedom they came, And dying, <u>bequeath'd</u> us their freedom and fame. <i>Chorus</i></p>	
4	<p>The tree their own hands had to Liberty <u>rear'd</u>, They lived to behold growing strong and revered; With <u>transport</u> they cried, Now our wishes we gain, For our children shall gather the <u>fruits</u> of our pain. <i>Chorus</i></p>	
5	<p>Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all, By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall; In so <u>righteous</u> a cause let us hope to succeed, For heaven approves of each generous deed. <i>Chorus</i></p>	

Source: John Dickinson, "The Liberty Song," The Boston Chronicle, August 29, 1768; from the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Word Bank

rouse (v) – to awaken

tyrannous (adj) – cruel and controlling

purses (n) – a pouch used to hold money

Freemen (n) – a full citizen with the right to vote

bequeath (v) – to pass on from one generation to the next

rear'd/reared (v) – raised and nurtured

transport (n) – strong emotion

fruits (n) – the product or consequences of something

righteous (adj) – right and fair

