

## JOURNAL WRITING

### CHAPTER 9

#### *The War Starts*

#### *Concepts and Principles*

*The students will consider and discuss the following:*

Life presents us with hard choices; the right choice based on the highest principles in which one believes is often not the easy or convenient choice. In such a situation it is the great person who still makes the right choice

#### *The students will:*

Learn how to read, interpret, and write 18<sup>th</sup> Century journals and letters.

Be able to develop an 18<sup>th</sup> Century vocabulary and style of writing by reading and interpreting text from the past.

**Note:** *There is a Journal Writing lesson plan for each chapter of the Why America Is Free book. Before beginning this study, the students will have already studied 18<sup>th</sup> journals.*

### **Background for teachers**

Mrs. Gage, wife of the General Gage, commander of the British, was an American. She loved and felt great loyalty to her family, community, and country. She believed what the British were doing was wrong, yet she was married to the British Commandant. To his credit, General Gage was also a decent man doing his best in an impossible situation. It was his sworn duty and responsibility to both enforce the laws that Parliament passed and to end the rebellion. It is very likely that it was Mrs. Gage who warned the Americans about British plans to march to Lexington and Concord to seize arms and arrest some of the leaders.

### **Overview for the students**

The journal is one of the ways to learn to think and talk like a Patriot. You will be writing a journal using the 18<sup>th</sup> century language and style as you address the concerns of that period. By

doing this, you can better explore and learn the way the colonists saw the world and have creative fun in the process.

## Materials

*“Who Am I?” (attached)*

## 18<sup>th</sup> Century Journal Entry

Read or tell the following to the students:

*Soon after you found out about what happened in Lexington and Concord, you heard someone very close to General Gage is the person who told the patriots in Boston about the plans, and if it had not been for this person, two of the leaders would have been captured and probably killed. Also, most of the arms the people in those towns owned would have been taken by the British.*

- What do you think about this person who told the Americans?

*The next day you learned that the person who told your side was the wife of the General. She is an American, but she is his wife as well and he trusted her.*

- What do you think about her now? This woman has dealt with two conflicting duties of loyalty.
- Without knowing more, what do you think of the choice she made?
- Would you want someone you trust completely to make such a choice against you?
- What do you think this did to their relationship?

Remind the students to:

- Express their thoughts as though they are the fictional character they created in “Who Am I?”
- Use the language and expressions of that time to the extent possible.
- Remember not to mention things that did not exist at that time
- Write a journal as if it is the years before the Revolutionary war

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Journal Entry (written on a separate sheet of paper)

Ask the question below and discuss very briefly some of the possible situations.

*Can you think of a time when you felt you had an obligation to do both of two opposing things? An example might be if you had promised two different people that you would do something at the same time.*

Write these questions on the board and then read each of them. Direct the children to answer them, incorporating the question into the answer.

- What was the situation in which you had to balance and perhaps choose between conflicting duties? How did you handle it?
- Did you rely on any principle(s) in deciding what to do? If so, what guided you?
- Would there have been a better way to handle it? If so, what do you wish you had done?
- Could you have prevented it from happening? How?

*Who Am I?*  
(Students)

*My name is* \_\_\_\_\_

(Richard, Thomas, Asa, George, William, John...)

(Anne, Elizabeth, Abigail, Hannah, Martha...)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent or parents alive)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sister, stepsister(s) or brothers, stepbrother(s))

\_\_\_\_\_  
(how many and ages)

*I live in the* \_\_\_\_\_

(country, city)

*I live in the colony of* \_\_\_\_\_, *in or near the town of* \_\_\_\_\_

(name of colony)

(name of town)

*My father is a* \_\_\_\_\_

(printer, blacksmith, minister, silversmith, Chandler, farmer, lawyer, shopkeeper...)

*My family is* \_\_\_\_\_

(wealthy, poor, middle class, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(family members serving in the war)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(where and with whom)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(How is your family...are they safe...has any harm come their way?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(How long has your family been living in America?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Do you attend school? If so, where?)