

YOU WANT A REVOLUTION, I WANT A REVELATION!

Text 1 - Letters between Abigail and John Adams, 1776 (excerpts)

NOTE: At this point in history, the English language had yet to be standardized in the way we know it to be today. This means that, though some of the wording and spelling in the following letters is incorrect by today's standards, they were acceptable during this time period. Possibly confusing words have been changed for readability.

Abigail to John

March 31, 1776

—I long to hear that you have declared an independancy—and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If perticular care and attention is not paid to the Laidies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.

John to Abigail

April 14, 1776

As to your extraordinary Code of Laws, I cannot but laugh. We have been told that our Struggle has loosened the bands of Government every where. . . . Letter was the first [hint] that another Tribe more numerous and powerfull than all the rest were grown discontented. . . .

Depend upon it, We know better than to repeal our Masculine systems. Altho they are in full Force, you know they are little more than Theory. . . . We have only the Name of Masters, and rather than give up this, which would compleatly subject Us to the [tyranny of women] . . . at last [women] have stimulated the [] to demand new Priviledges and threaten to rebel.

Abigail to John

May 7, 1776

I can not say that I think you very generous to the Ladies, for whilst you are proclaiming peace and good will to Men, [freeing] all Nations, you insist upon retaining an absolute power over Wives. But you must remember that Arbitrary power is like most other things which are very hard, very [likely] to be broken—and . . . we [women] have it in our power not only to free ourselves but to subdue our Masters, and without voilence throw both your natural and legal authority at our feet—

SOURCE: Adams, A., & Adams, J. (1776). *The Adams papers: Digital editions (Volume 1)*. Retrieved from <http://www.masshist.org/publications/apde2/volume-toc?series=afc&vol=1>

1. Based on Text 1, create a summary statement that describes the general point that Abigail is trying to make to her husband about the political and social issues facing women in colonial America. Identify and explain two words or phrases to serve as evidence to support your response.

TEXT 2 - "The Schuyler Sisters" (excerpt)

By Lin Manuel-Miranda

[BURR]

There's nothing rich folks love more
Than going downtown and slummin' it with the poor
They pull up in their carriages and gawk
At the students in the common
Just to watch them talk
Take Philip Schuyler: the man is loaded
Uh-oh, but little does he know that
His daughters, Peggy, Angelica, Eliza
Sneak into the city just to watch all the guys at—

[COMPANY]

Work, work!

[ANGELICA]

Angelica!

[COMPANY]

Work, work!

[ELIZA]

Eliza!

[PEGGY]

And Peggy!

[COMPANY]

Work, work!
The Schuyler sisters!

[ANGELICA]

Angelica!

[PEGGY]

Peggy!

[ELIZA]

Eliza!

[COMPANY]

Work!

[PEGGY]

Daddy said to be home by sundown

[ANGELICA]

Daddy doesn't need to know

[PEGGY]

Daddy said not to go downtown

[ELIZA]

Like I said, you're free to go

[ANGELICA]

But—look around, look around, the
Revolution's happening in New York

[ELIZA/PEGGY]

New York

<http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-7930477>

[COMPANY]

Angelica

[SCHUYLER SISTERS AND COMPANY]

Work!

[PEGGY]

It's bad enough daddy wants to go to war

<http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-7885428>

[ELIZA]

People shouting in the square

[PEGGY]

It's bad enough there'll be violence on our shore

[ANGELICA]

New ideas in the air

[ANGELICA AND MALE ENSEMBLE]

Look around, look around—

<http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-8033486>

[ELIZA]

Angelica, remind me what we're looking for...

[ALL MEN]

She's lookin' for me!

[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics - note-7910471](http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-7910471)

[ANGELICA]

Eliza, I'm lookin'
for a mind at work
I'm lookin' for a
mind at work!
I'm lookin' for a
mind at work!
Whooaaaaa!

[COMPANY]

Work, work!

Work, work!
Work, work!

[ELIZA/ANGELICA/PEGGY]

Whooaaaaa!
Work!

[BURR]

Wooh! There's nothin' like summer in the city
Someone in a rush next to someone lookin' pretty
Excuse me, miss, I know it's not funny
But your perfume smells like your daddy's got money
Why you slummin' in the city in your fancy heels
You searchin for an urchin who can give you ideals?

[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics - note-7954801](http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-7954801)

[ANGELICA]

Burr, you disgust me

[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics - note-8048113](http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-8048113)

[BURR]

Ah, so you've discussed me
I'm a trust fund, baby, you can trust me!

[ANGELICA]

I've been reading *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine
So men say that I'm intense or I'm insane
You want a revolution? I want a revelation
So listen to my declaration:

[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics - note-7857740](http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-7857740)

[ELIZA/ANGELICA/PEGGY]

"We hold these truths to be self-evident
That all men are created equal"

[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics - note-7857740](http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-7857740)

[ANGELICA]

And when I meet Thomas Jefferson

[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics - note-7857740](http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-7857740)

[COMPANY]

Unh!

[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics - note-7857740](http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-7857740)

[ANGELICA]

I'm 'a compel him to include women in the sequel!

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[WOMEN]

Work!

[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics - note-7857740](http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-7857740)

[ELIZA]

Look around, look around at how

Lucky we are to be alive right now!

[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics - note-8000393](http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-8000393)

[ELIZA/PEGGY]

Look around, look around at how

Lucky we are to be alive right now!

[ELIZA/ANGELICA/PEGGY]

History is happening in Manhattan and we just happen to be

In the greatest city in the world!

[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics - note-8050640](http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-the-schuyler-sisters-lyrics-note-8050640)

[SCHUYLER SISTERS AND COMPANY]

In the greatest city in the world!

SOURCE: *Miranda, L. -M. (2015). The Schuyler sisters [Liner notes]. Atlantic Records. Retrieved from <http://atlanticrecords.com/HamiltonMusic>*

2. Based on Text 2, create a summary statement that describes the general point that Angelica is making in “The Schuyler Sisters” about the political and social issues facing women in colonial America. Identify and explain two words or phrases to serve as evidence to support your response.

The Texts Together

3. Thinking about the two texts together, create a short conversation that Abigail Adams and Angelica Schuyler might have about political and social issues facing women in colonial America. This conversation should have each person speaking three times and should incorporate evidence from the documents above.