

## TAKE NOTES

### Activate Prior Knowledge

Think of speeches you have heard as part of political campaigns. Also think of editorials you have read that take a strong position on an issue. Then, as you read, notice the ways that Paine persuades his audience. Think about how his techniques compare to those of speeches and editorials today.

### Literary Analysis

This selection is an example of **persuasion**, which is writing that tries to convince people to think or behave in a certain way. Reread the bracketed sentence. Paine persuades by saying that only summer soldiers or sunshine patriots would avoid serving their country now. Why would a reader not want to be called a summer soldier or a sunshine patriot?

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### Reading Strategy

To persuade his readers, Paine uses **charged words**. These are words with strong connotations, or associations that the words create in addition to their dictionary definitions. Charged words produce an emotional response. One example is *tyranny*, a word that makes Paine's point that Britain is oppressing the colonists. Circle two more **charged words** on this page and write them below.

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## from The Crisis, Number 1

Thomas Paine

*Thomas Paine was inspired by Benjamin Franklin to emigrate from Britain to the American colonies. Once there, he enlisted in the American army and became one of the strongest voices supporting the war against the British.*

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; 'tis dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated. Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared that she has a right (*not only* to TAX) but "to BIND us in ALL CASES WHATSOEVER," and if being *bound in that manner*, is not slavery, then is there not such a thing as slavery upon earth. Even the expression is impious, for so unlimited a power can belong only to God . . .

I have as little superstition in me as any man living, but my secret opinion has ever been, and still is, that God Almighty will not give up a people to military destruction, or leave them unsupportedly to perish, who have so earnestly and so repeatedly sought to avoid the calamities of war, by every decent method which wisdom could invent. Neither have I so much of the infidel in me, as to suppose that he has relinquished the government of the world, and given us up to the care of devils; and as I do not, I cannot see on what grounds the king of Britain can look up to heaven for help against us: a common murderer, a highwayman, or a housebreaker, has as good a pretense as he . . .

I once felt all that kind of anger, which a man ought to feel, against the mean<sup>1</sup> principles that are held by the Tories:<sup>2</sup> a noted one, who kept a tavern at Amboy, was standing at his door, with as pretty a child in his hand,

**Vocabulary Development:** **impious** (IM pee uhs) *adj.* lacking reverence for God  
**infidel** (IN fuh duhl) *n.* a person who holds no religious belief

1. **mean** *adj.* here, small-minded.

2. **Tories** colonists who remained loyal to Great Britain.

about eight or nine years old, as I ever saw, and after speaking his mind as freely as he thought was prudent, finished with this unfatherly expression, “*Well! give me peace in my day.*” Not a man lives on the continent but fully believes that a separation must some time or other finally take place, and a generous parent should have said, “*If there must be trouble let it be in my day, that my child may have peace*”; and this single reflection, well applied, is sufficient to awaken every man to duty. Not a place upon earth might be so happy as America. Her situation is remote from all the wrangling world, and she has nothing to do but to trade with them. A man can distinguish himself between temper and principle, and I am as confident, as I am that God governs the world, that America will never be happy till she gets clear of foreign dominion. Wars, without ceasing, will break out till that period arrives, and the continent must in the end be conqueror; for though the flame of liberty may sometimes cease to shine, the coal can never expire . . .

I turn with the warm ardor of a friend to those who have nobly stood, and are yet determined to stand the matter out: I call not upon a few, but upon all; not on *this* state or *that* state, but on *every* state; up and help us; lay your shoulders to the wheel; better have too much force than too little, when so great an object is at stake. Let it be told to the future world, that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive, that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet and to repulse it. Say not that thousands are gone, turn out your tens of thousands; throw not the burden of the day upon Providence, but “*show your faith by your works,*” that God may bless you. It matters not where you live, or what rank of life you hold, the evil or the blessing will reach you all. The far and the near, the home counties and the back, the rich and the poor, will suffer or rejoice alike. The heart that feels not now, is dead: the blood of his children will curse his cowardice, who shrinks back at a time when a little might have saved the whole, and made them happy. (I love the man that can smile at trouble; that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection.) ’Tis the business of little minds to shrink; but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death. My own line of reasoning is to myself as straight and clear as a ray of light. Not all the treasures of the world, so far as I believe, could have induced me to support an offensive war, for I think it murder; but if a thief breaks into my house, burns and destroys my property, and kills or threatens to kill me, or those that are in it, and to “*bind me in all cases whatsoever,*” to his absolute will, am I to suffer it? What signifies it to me, whether he who does it is a king

## TAKE NOTES

### Literary Analysis

Reread the bracketed sentences carefully. Paine is using strong words and images here to **persuade** his readers. Summarize his argument in this section by rewriting each sentence in your own words.

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### Reading Strategy

Paine uses **parallelism** to emphasize the importance of his ideas and to create rhythm. **Parallelism** is the repeated use of phrases, clauses, or sentences that are alike in structure or in meaning. Find one example of parallelism on this page and circle it.



### Reading Check

How far does Paine say that a man of conscience should pursue his principles?

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## TAKE NOTES

### Reading Check

Why does Paine compare the king to a thief?

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or a common man: my countryman, or not my countryman; whether it be done by an individual villain or an army of them? If we reason to the root of things we shall find no difference; neither can any just cause be assigned why we should punish in the one case and pardon in the other.

**Reader's Response:** Paine wants all Americans to join forces against the British. What makes his arguments persuasive to you?

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**Thinking About the Skill:** How will recognizing **charged words** help you evaluate arguments in other persuasive pieces you read?

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