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RSA 5B Composition

The Firebrands: Helping America Fight for Freedom

Did you know Firebrands helped spark the American Revolution? Three men – Samuel Adams, Thomas Paine, and Patrick Henry were responsible for getting colonists excited and ready for a war against their Mother Country. Thought they were different, they had one thing in common, their dream for America.

Samuel Adams, the first Firebrand was a graduate of Harvard and a Boston man. Since he did not care about business and managing his money, he almost lost all his family’s wealth. It is hard to believe, but Samuel Adams, a man we respect today, was not popular because of his political views. In fact, many wanted to see him hanged. Despite the hate, Sam started groups of patriots called “Committees of Correspondence”. One group, The Sons of Liberty, met under a tree they called Liberty Tree located in Annapolis, Maryland.

Next, Thomas Paine, the Firebrand who made patriots through his writing and wrote many famous pamphlets about his thoughts on the war. Paine was originally from England, and he had run to the colonies from his apprenticeship to a corset maker. On his way to America, he almost died of fever. In his life, Tom had tried being a teacher, grocer, and tobacco dealer. W/hen he failed at all, he settled down in Philadelphia and became a writer. He wrote three famous pamphlets, *Common Sense, The American Crisis,* and *The Last Crisis.* They both sold many copies to loyal patriots and those who would change their views after reading them.

Finally, the speaker Patrick Henry who was heard by millions. Henry first lived in Virginia, and worked as a shopkeeper, then a planter. However, he was especially skilled at delivering speeches. One day, he was speaking at the House of Burgesses and a young lawyer named Thomas Jefferson was in the audience. Jefferson never forgot the way he spoke. He said it was “as Homer wrote” (he considered Homer the greatest of writers). One of Henry’s more popular speeches was The Stamp Act Speech, in which he declared, “Give me liberty, or give me death!”.

These men were truly extraordinary, they effected how life is today! They are liable for our independence from England. What would have happened if these rebels had not recognized a separation from England was necessary? They had a dream for America, and they worked to achieve it. Because of these brilliant Americans, the bond between Britain and America was broken.