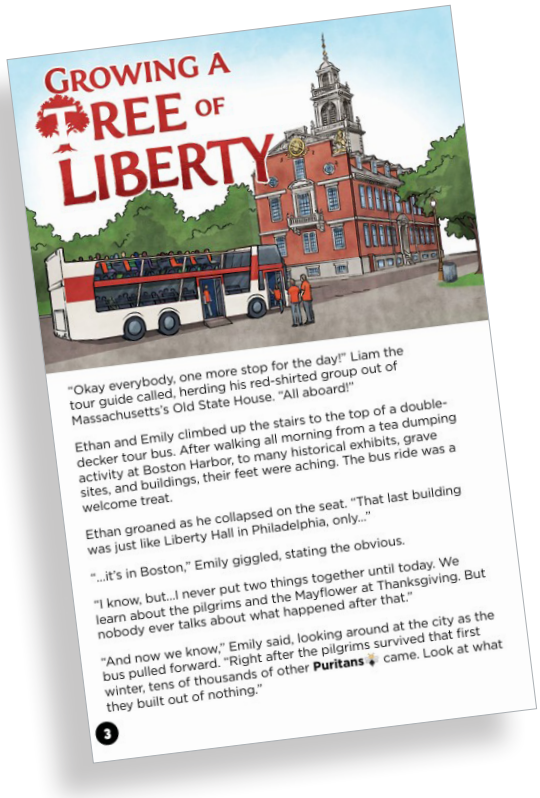
Article Overviews and Conversation Starters

This month, your kids will be reading several articles. Below you'll find summaries of each one along with suggested conversation starters. These discussions will help reinforce key concepts while also giving you, the parent, an opportunity to share your experiences and perspectives on the topic.


GROWING A TREE OF LIBERTY

"Okay everybody, one more stop for the day!" Liam the tour guide called, herding his red-shirted group out of Massachusetts's Old State House. "All aboard!"

Ethan and Emily climbed up the stairs to the top of a double-decker tour bus. After walking all morning from a tea dumping activity at Boston Harbor, to many historical exhibits, grave sites, and buildings, their feet were aching. The bus ride was a welcome treat.

Ethan groaned as he collapsed on the seat. "That last building was just like Liberty Hall in Philadelphia, only..."

"...it's in Boston," Emily giggled, stating the obvious.

"I know, but...I never put two things together until today. We learn about the pilgrims and the Mayflower at Thanksgiving. But nobody ever talks about what happened after that."

"And now we know," Emily said, looking around at the city as the bus pulled forward. "Right after the pilgrims survived that first winter, tens of thousands of other **Puritans** came. Look at what they built out of nothing."

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Growing a Tree of Liberty.

While touring Boston, Ethan and Emily visit the site where the famous Liberty Tree once stood. Their tour guide, Liam, explains how the tree became a symbol of the American colonies. Just as each colony began like a seed planted by people with a shared vision, they grew into unique communities that governed themselves and learned from both their successes and mistakes. Beneath the Liberty Tree, the Sons of Liberty gathered to defend the freedoms the colonists had enjoyed for generations.

When the children discover that the tree was cut down by loyalists during the Revolution, they realize that liberty can be lost if people choose comfort and obedience over freedom. Looking at the plaque that marks the tree's former home, Ethan and Emily make a promise to each other—to continue growing liberty for future generations, just as those who came before them planted its seeds..

Conversation Starters

• Emily said people were "free to make mistakes, and free to learn, and do better." Why is that an important part of self-government?

• At the end of the story, Ethan and Emily make a compact "to grow Liberty." What are some ways our family can help preserve and strengthen liberty in our community today?

Parent Guide: July 2026

Sam Adams: The Man of the Revolution.

Long before the American Revolution began, Samuel Adams believed government should protect the rights of the people instead of ruling over them. After watching his own family suffer because of unfair government policies, he dedicated his life to changing the way people thought about liberty. Samuel organized ordinary citizens, built the Sons of Liberty, spread ideas through friends and neighbors, and inspired the colonies to defend the precious freedom they had enjoyed for generations.



By uniting people around that cause, Samuel Adams helped transform thirteen separate colonies into a movement for independence. Even after the Revolutionary War, he continued defending liberty by supporting a Bill of Rights to protect the liberty Americans had fought so hard to win.

His greatest legacy was not fame or power, but inspiring others to stand together for freedom.

Conversation Starters

• Samuel Adams believed that governments should serve the people, not the other way around. What are some ways governments can serve the people well?

• Samuel Adams spent his life encouraging others to work together for liberty. What is one positive idea or value you could help spread in your family, school, or community?

Share your conversation experiences with the world!

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