Viewing Guide: John Adams Episode One – “Join or Die”

1. What are the boys doing to the British soldiers when John Adams arrives in Boston, 1770?

2. The town's bell rings and the call of “FIRE!” goes out through the town. Everyone springs to action. Why?

3. While trying to find water that wasn’t frozen, John Adams hears a ruckus. What does he see?

4. When the man barges into John Adams home, what does he ask Adams to do?

5. Why does Adams feel he should accept the case?

6. When John Adams shows up to talk to the British, what is Capt. Preston's account of what happened?

7. How is exchange between Samuel Adams and John Adams? Friendly or Unfriendly?

8. When John is talking to his wife, what is his concern about any jury that may hear the case?

9. How does the testimony differ between the first two witnesses? 1ST WITNESS (MR. GODDARD) = 2ND WITNESS (MR. HOLMES) =

10. How does the testimony of Richard Palmes help the soldiers?

11. How does Captain Preston say the first shot was fired?

12. Who reviews John Adams’ closing statement and gives him advice?

13. Do you think John Adams believes the British soldiers? Why?

14. What is the jury’s verdict?
1. What are the boys doing to the British soldiers when John Adams arrives in Boston, 1770? **THEY ARE MOCKING SOLDIERS / CALLING THEM NAMES - LOBSTER**

2. The town’s bell rings and the call of “FIRE!” goes out through the town. Everyone springs to action. Why? **THEY BELIEVE IT IS A REAL FIRE**

3. While trying to find water that wasn’t frozen, John Adams hears a ruckus. What does he see? **BOSTON MASSACRE - BRITISH FIRED UPON COLONISTS--SEVERAL DEAD**

4. When the man barges into John Adams home, what does he ask Adams to do? **HELP (BRITISH) CAPTAIN PRESTON**

5. Why does Adams feel he should accept the case? **EVERYONE DESERVES COUNCIL IN A FREE COUNTRY.** John Adams decided to take the case because he is for the law. He believes that everyone deserves a fair trial, a good lawyer because accusations are not a form of evidence and that if the soldiers didn’t start it then they shouldn’t be punished for it

6. When John Adams shows up to talk to the British, what is Capt. Preston’s account of what happened? **SENTRY WAS BEING ABUSED BY COLONISTS - CAME TO HELP HIM / GAVE NO ORDER TO FIRE**

7. How is exchange between Samuel Adams and John Adams? Friendly or Unfriendly (circle one) **UNFRIENDLY**

8. When John is talking to his wife, what is his concern about any jury that may hear the case? **THAT THE JURY WILL HAVE PREJUDICES AGAINST BRITISH SOLDIER**

9. How does the testimony differ between the first two witnesses?

   **1ST WITNESS (MR. GODDARD) = BRITISH YELLED FIRE / BOYS THROWING SNOWBALLS**

   **2ND WITNESS (MR. HOLMES) = BOYS THROWING ICE AND OYSTER SHELLS / PEOPLE YELLED**

   "FIRE - DAMN YOU...FIRE!" NOT BRITISH

10. How does the testimony of Richard Palmes help the soldiers? **STATED THAT CAPTAIN PRESTON WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF HIS MEN, NOT BEHIND THEM.**

11. How does Captain Preston say the first shot was fired? **PRIVATE MONTGOMERY WAS STRUCK WITH A CLUB AND HIS MUSKET DISCHARGED**

12. Who reviews John Adams’ closing statement and gives him advice? **HIS WIFE, ABIGAIL**

13. Do you think John Adams believes the British soldiers? Why? **Answers may vary.**

14. What is the jury’s verdict? **NOT GUILTY**