

## Student Passage 3: Dear Diary

by Kay Brickley

June 10

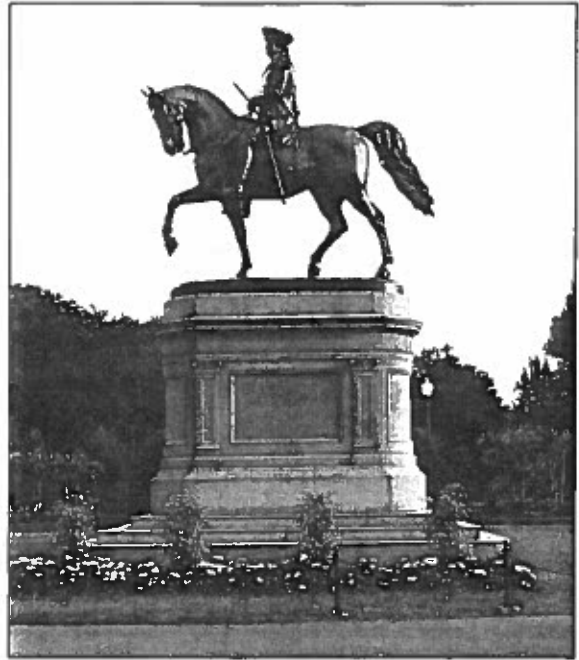
Dear Diary,

1 Today is the day that I have decided to love history. Does that surprise you? I know that in the past, I have not bragged about it being one of my favorite subjects.

2 This is the first day of my long-awaited vacation to visit my Aunt Nancy in Boston. When I arrived at Boston's Logan International Airport, my aunt was there to meet me. "Your historical tour is about to begin, so I hope you wore comfortable shoes," she said. "Boston is a walking city. We have lots of places to go." Thank goodness I had my favorite sneakers on. I was ready!

3 We started our day with a stroll through the Boston Commons and the Public Garden. These two parks are side-by-side and are both immaculately landscaped with huge trees, colorful flowers, and walking paths. The Boston Commons is the older park and was where British soldiers camped during part of the Revolutionary War. My aunt said that we would be following a red-brick walking trail called the Freedom Trail. We would start at the Boston Commons and discover history along the way.

4 Shortly after we exited the parks, we came across the Old Granary Burying Ground. I don't usually find cemeteries very interesting, but this one had several visitors touring it. My aunt said that this cemetery had been in Boston for over 350 years. Many famous people in history, such as Paul Revere and John Hancock, were buried there. It was fascinating to wander through, reading the dates on the old tombstones. We had a contest to see who could find the oldest one. Guess who discovered a small gravestone inscribed with the years 1660–1699? That's right, me.



Photograph courtesy of Tim Brickley

This is a bronze statue of George Washington in the Public Garden.

5 Next we continued on the Freedom Trail and found more of old Boston, including Faneuil Hall. According to Aunt Nancy, this 1742 building was once the meeting place for the leaders of the Revolutionary War. It was here that many speeches were made to argue for breaking away from British rule. My aunt took my picture standing next to a statue of Samuel Adams. History was starting to feel real to me!

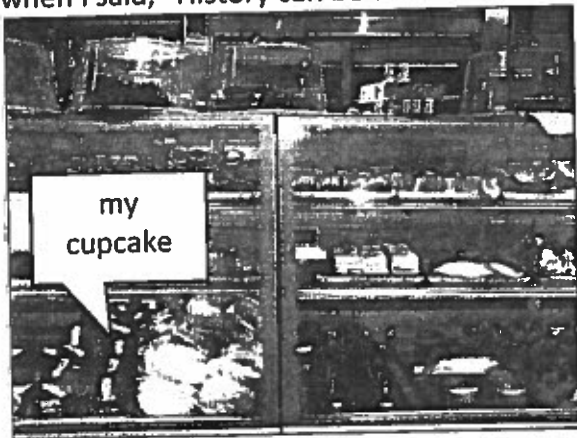
6 Later on our journey, we entered an area of Boston called the North End. This was Boston's first neighborhood. Here the narrow streets are lined with many old buildings, including the home of Paul Revere. This oldest building in Boston is now a museum. We also located the Old North Church, where Paul Revere watched for the lantern signal to identify how the British soldiers were approaching. As the story goes, the signal was "One if by land, and two if by sea." I could almost visualize

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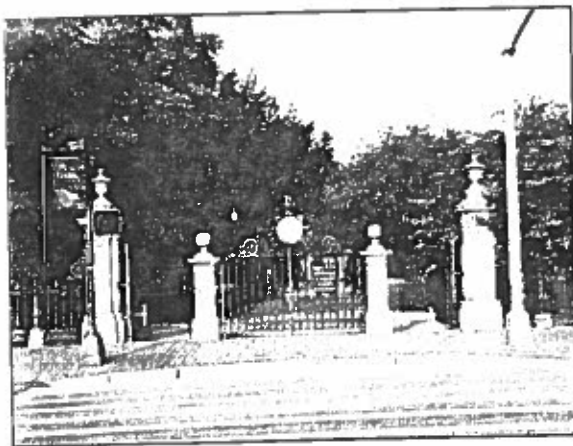
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his famous midnight ride, warning his fellow countrymen along the streets of the North End.

7 Finally, having worked up an appetite from all that walking, Aunt Nancy and I were overcome by the aroma of Italian food coming from several restaurants in the North End. Our Freedom Trail jaunt ended for the day as we dove into a pepperoni and sausage pizza at Regina Pizzeria, a restaurant that has been open since 1926. The North End also had many delicious bakeries. I had a yummy cupcake for dessert. Aunt Nancy laughed when I said, "History can be delicious!"



Photograph courtesy of Tim Brickley



Photograph courtesy of Tim Brickley

This shows the entrance to Boston's Public Garden. It was built in 1869.

### Glossary

**Bragged**—talked about yourself with too much pride

**Immaculately**—perfectly clean

**Landscaped**—made an area of land beautiful

**Inscribed**—wrote words on something

**Jaunt**—short trip

**Dove**—started something quickly

### Assessment for Student Passage 3: "Dear Diary"

- 1 The reader can tell that the author —
- A is becoming more interested in history
  - B does not enjoy visiting her aunt
  - C becomes tired from all the walking
  - D has always loved learning about history
- 2 After visiting the Boston Commons and Public Garden, the author —
- F went to the North End
  - G enjoyed a pepperoni and sausage pizza
  - H toured the Old Granary Burying Ground
  - J arrived at Boston's Logan International airport
- 3 What is paragraph 6 mainly about?
- A A description of the Freedom Trail
  - B A description of the North End area of Boston
  - C Why the Old North Church is located in the North End
  - D An explanation of the signal used by Paul Revere
- 4 Which words from the story explain what the Freedom Trail is?
- F Old Boston, including Faneuil Hall
  - G Red-brick walking trail
  - H The North End
  - J A meeting place
- 5 The author most likely wrote this passage to —
- A describe the meals she enjoyed while on vacation
  - B compare old Boston to the modern Boston
  - C list places for others to visit in Boston
  - D describe the events of one day visiting historical Boston

## Practice 12: Context Clues

Directions: Read the following sentences. Then choose the best word to fit in the blank. On your answer sheet, darken the circle for the correct word.

1. The firefighter received a medal for his \_\_\_\_\_ acts during the flood.
  - A sincere
  - B supreme
  - C capable
  - D courageous
  
2. You should wash your most \_\_\_\_\_ clothes by hand.
  - A sensible
  - B visible
  - C delicate
  - D colorful
  
3. The weather \_\_\_\_\_ said we should expect rain this week.
  - A formation
  - B forward
  - C formality
  - D forecast
  
4. The two boys look alike, so it is hard to \_\_\_\_\_ one from the other.
  - A distinguish
  - B reveal
  - C convince
  - D examine
  
5. Doing special exercises can improve your \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A reference
  - B relation
  - C posture
  - D position
  
6. She can't make a decision because she is \_\_\_\_\_ of the facts.
  - A apparent
  - B reluctant
  - C ignorant
  - D objective
  
7. When Donna was \_\_\_\_\_, she also received a raise in pay.
  - A related
  - B informed
  - C noticed
  - D promoted
  
8. The accident was a great \_\_\_\_\_ for the family.
  - A misgiving
  - B misfortune
  - C misuse
  - D misfit

1.3 Use context clues to determine word meaning