

To His Excellency, General Washington

Phillis Wheatley

How does Wheatley elevate a current political struggle by placing it inside epic and divine imagery?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Poem - complete poem

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	Celestial choir! enthron'd in realms of light,
END	And so may you, whoever dares disgrace / The land of freedoms heaven-defended race!
PASSAGE ID	sec-wheatley-washington-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how allusion and personification enlarge the scale of a political argument

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Wheatley does not describe the Revolution only as military conflict. She personifies America as Columbia, invokes muses and heaven, and casts Washington's leadership in a heroic frame. That language makes the political struggle appear to participate in a larger moral and epic order.

MARK

Underline references to heaven, muses, or classical imagery. Circle every personification of America or Freedom. Box direct praise or instruction addressed to Washington.

NOTICE

- What happens to the scale of the conflict when America becomes Columbia?
- Why combine classical and Christian imagery?
- How does the poem's praise of Washington also make a claim about the cause he leads?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Wheatley elevate a current political struggle by placing it inside epic and divine imagery? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

Wheatley enlarges the Revolution by placing it inside epic and divine imagery. Columbia, heaven, and heroic language make the conflict seem larger than a dispute between governments, while Washingtons praise becomes evidence that the cause itself deserves honor and protection.

EVIDENCE

Use one personification of America and one classical, heavenly, or heroic image connected to Washington.

WATCH FOR

Do not treat the allusions as decoration. Explain how they change the status of the political conflict.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 12 · LESSON 322

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WORK	To His Excellency, General Washington
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Poem - complete poem

PASSAGE ID	sec-wheatley-washington-01
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Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

Celestial choir! enthroned in realms of light,

END

And so may you, whoever dares disgrace / The land of freedoms heaven-defended race!

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** Underline references to heaven, muses, or classical imagery. Circle every personification of America or Freedom. Box direct praise or instruction addressed to Washington.
2. **NOTICE** What happens to the scale of the conflict when America becomes Columbia? Why combine classical and Christian imagery? How does the poems praise of Washington also make a claim about the cause he leads?
3. **THINK** Answer provisionally: How does Wheatley elevate a current political struggle by placing it inside epic and divine imagery?
4. **WRITE** Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. **CLOSE** Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.