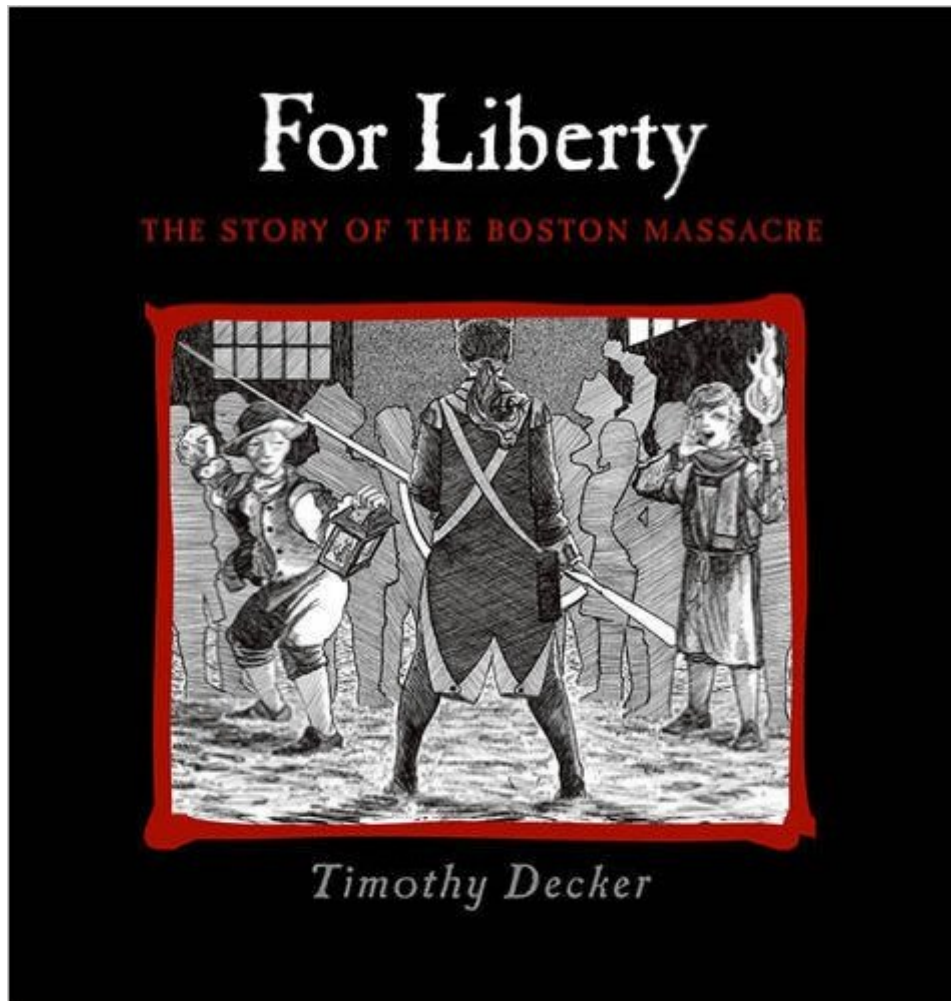


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# For Liberty: The Story Of The Boston Massacre



## Synopsis

By March 5, 1770, it was dangerous to be a soldier in Boston. Colonial businessmen opposed the taxes imposed by Great Britain. The Sons of Liberty ruled the city through boycotts and riots. British troops were sent to protect lives and property. On that late winter day, a British private found himself harassed by street toughs. Then up from the docks came sailors and ruffians armed with clubs and cutlasses. Soldiers from the British 29th Regiment of Foot came to disperse the mob. Threats made, stones thrown, then ... gunfire. In spare, gripping language, author-illustrator Timothy Decker describes the tense, violent confrontation between Boston's angry colonists and soldiers, as well as the legal aftermath that underscored the rule of law.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Front Street, Incorporated (September 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590786084

ISBN-13: 978-1590786086

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.5 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,324,439 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in [Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History](#) #635 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial](#) #682 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Military & Wars](#)

Age Range: 9 - 11 years

Grade Level: 5 - 6

## Customer Reviews

For Liberty tells the story of the events leading up to, and a detailed account of the Boston Massacre of 1770. The book is mostly focused on the night of the tragedy but it ends with implications for other events to occur between the British and the Sons of Liberty as they struggled for freedom from the crown. The black and white drawings are done in a way to incorporate multiple perspectives. I really enjoy how Timothy Decker has captured snapshots of what it must have been like in the terrifying moments of this important historic event. The story itself is told in a very

compelling fashion. The problem is that some of the details are not very clear to a reader. When I received this book from the publisher, it is marked appropriate for children ages 9-11. I wonder if a child this age will understand the story. One of the problems I had on first reading was in understanding who the British were versus the colonists. Although it becomes clearer the further the reader goes in the text, it is not clear at first. Furthermore, I am not sure what some of the images portray earlier in the text. On one early page, the picture shows (a soldier?) strung up in a tree and a mob with torches. A young reader may ask, what do these images mean? It may have helped if the author had included a foreword or an afterword to explain some of these things. Early American history can be challenging for youngsters to understand and some unexplained images make the task more difficult. Finally, some of the language may not be appropriate for young readers. Several words used that may not be a part of the vocabulary of 9-11 year olds used in the text are: bellicose, ruffians, branded and vigilant. Although it is important to introduce new words in text, if not understood by context, much of the meaning of the text is left unknown.

.Illustrated with detailed pen and ink drawings, "For Liberty" is a remarkable book about the Boston Massacre and the seeds of the American Revolution. The detailed images of the angry mob threatening soldiers charged with crowd control immediately brought images of the recent protests in the Middle East to mind, and my student could easily compare the passion of that 18th century moment to today's news. The vocabulary is a bit difficult for school children and for English as a Second Language adult learners, but this book can be used to teach both history, vocabulary, and sociological concepts related to freedom and independence. The addition of a glossary and some teacher/student thought questions at the end would make "For Liberty" an excellent book for 4,5, and 6th grade students. The history is accurate and the drawings precise. Two thumbs up. Kim BurdickStanton, Delaware

In For Liberty Decker brings his wondrous eye to The Colonies in 1770. He's working in what feels like a larger format here, but on closer reflection is actually more of a zoomed in scale. His drawing is deceptively simple, and one can revisit his panels at length and be richly rewarded. The story itself is a familiar one to most of us, but is told here succinctly and with an underlying passion. The loving and lingering examination of the soldiers' uniforms is delightful, and the sudden switch to an aerial view is a beautiful underlining of the narrative. I've only been through it two or three times- I'm sure there is much more to see.

Fabulous

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