

## Skit Writing Activity "The Intolerable Acts"

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**DIRECTIONS:** The skit below has been partially written, but it's up to you and your group to finish it. When the skit is complete, you should try acting it out. Read the setting and the opening lines to get started. Then fill in the blanks and follow the prompts to finish.

### (Scene 1)

Setting: Great Britain, 1774

Characters: Narrator, Lord Frederick North, William Lemon (member of Parliament)

*(North sits at his desk, obviously angry about something.)*

Narrator: The Boston Tea Party made Great Britain very angry, and it was up to Lord Frederick North and the other members of Parliament such as William Lemon to decide how they should punish them.

North: Oh those despicable colonists! Why don't they just do as they're told?

*(a knock at the door...)* [KNOCK, KNOCK]

Come in.

*(enter: William Lemon, very angry and pacing back and forth)*

Lemon: Lord North, these colonists... Well, I just can't stand their insolence. I'd like to do away with every last one of them.

North: *(smiling)* Lemon, you are especially sour today.

Lemon: Of course, I'm sour! The very idea of those ragtag ruffians laying their hands on our British tea makes me sick. I won't tolerate it, and I want to make them suffer. They must be punished!

North: Well, let's put our heads together and see what we can come up with.

*(The two colleagues form a small huddle and whisper to each other.)*

Narrator: So, North and Lemon devised some possible punishments for the Massachusetts colony that they could bring before Parliament.

*(North and Lemon step back from the huddle, smile and shake hands.)*

Narrator: Eventually, Parliament passed laws for the colonies that made life harder for the colonists. More soldiers were sent to Boston where they put a stop to all town meetings and, even worse, the colonists were forced to provide food and lodging for many of the British soldiers.

### **(Scene 2)**

Setting: Boston, Massachusetts – the home of a colonist, 1774

Characters: Narrator, Colonial Family and British Soldier

*(Father of a colonial family sits at the dinner table with a British soldier while the family stands in the background in fear.)*

Narrator: It was very difficult for families to provide food and lodging for British soldiers, not just because it cost them money, but because there was a lot of tension between the colonies and Great Britain.

Soldier: *(disdainfully)* Let me have some more of that ham.

Father: *(angrily)* Don't you Brits ever say, "Please"?

Soldier: *(sarcastically)* Please?

Father: *(shoving the plate toward him)* I hope you \_\_\_\_\_.

Soldier: Don't you know I could have you \_\_\_\_\_?

Prompt: You and your group should continue the skit by finishing the conversation between the soldier and this colonial family. It will be fun to write the kinds of things they would have said to each other as they shared a space in the family dwelling. Keep the following points in mind:

- The word intolerable means unbearable.