

Listening Guide- The American Document Series Episode 5

Phillis Wheatley- Poet of the Revolutionary Era- “His Excellency General Washington”

1. Beginning with Phillis Wheatley she was born we think around 1753 in _____, Africa and captured by slave traders.
2. It is traditionally accepted that over _____ million Gambians were stolen.
3. “They sometimes took those opportunities of our parents absence to _____ and carry off as many of us as they could seize.”
4. “She arrived a poor naked child who had no other _____ than a quantity of dirty carpet about her like a filibeg.
5. The name of the _____ was *The Phillis*; hence, Susanna chose to name her new acquisition Phillis Wheatley.
6. We do know that she did task _____ with educating this little girl who didn’t speak a word of English.
7. By March of _____ we’re going to have Patrick Henry’s fiery “Give me Liberty or Give me Death” speech; in April of _____, you have the Battle of Lexington and Concord.
8. In October of 1775, Wheatley is going to write her _____ for George Washington.
9. “For in every human breast God has implanted a principle which we call ‘love of _____’; it is impatient of oppression and pants for deliverance.”
10. The revolutionaries are advocating for their own freedom, but they are not thinking about _____ in America; and so they are living an untenable _____.
11. She learned to use their _____, the language of religion; she learned to use the language of American rhetoric.
12. A third of her poems are _____, so she was memorializing people who died.
13. Her most famous poem was dedicated, of course, to George Whitefield, and that eventually is what is going to get her _____ and published.
14. She leveraged her _____ to make a place for herself.
15. “Twas _____ brought me from my Pagan lands.”
16. First let’s just look at it poetically: It’s in _____.
17. The word “sable” takes the idea of something that is _____; it’s beautiful.

18. Phillis manages to get her work printed in _____ as well as in America.
19. “I was astonished and could hardly believe my eyes; I was _____ when she wrote it and can attest it is her own production.”
20. She finally landed a particularly powerful patron, the _____ of Huntington.
21. Being a published author in 1774 is a big deal for any _____; the last American writer, Anne Bradstreet, had been over 140 years before.
22. They treat her as if she were a real celebrity, and they don't treat her like a _____.
23. She receives word that Susanna's health is in _____, really bad decline.
24. Susanna _____ on March 3rd of 1774 leaving Phillis to fend for herself.
25. She writes him this personal poem; she puts it in a letter, and she _____ it to him.
26. Wheatley invented this classically styled goddess of the American Revolution called _____.
27. She takes the word “Columbia” and turns it into a _____.
28. This is what you are fighting for; you, _____, can make this happen.
29. She is going to litter it with all these Greek noble sounding references; this is the idea that there is _____, god-like nobility in what Washington is doing.
30. In Greek mythology, muses are deities that give art its _____ for creation.
31. “Proceed, _____, with virtue on thy side. Thy every action let the Goddess guide.”
32. She talks about “Britannia” which of course that's an obvious personification of _____.
33. She really believes in this cause, the _____ of Columbia, the cause of the Americas, the cause of the pursuit of the land of freedom that she believes she has a chance of getting to.
34. After the Revolution Wheatley moves into a lot of _____.
35. John actually ended up in debtor's prison leaving Phillis to work apparently _____ as a scullery maid.
36. She was the muse that helped bring to life the idea of Columbia, this _____ as she saw it and as she wrote it in its idealized form.
37. The phrase “First in peace” is the most famous phrase in this poem, and it was later used at George Washington's _____.
38. “First in war; first in peace; _____ in the hearts of his countrymen.”