

Brief Synopsis
In Defense of Democracy

In Defense of Democracy tells the story of the Boston Massacre and the role that John Adams played in defending the British soldiers accused of killing five colonists. The storyline begins with a brief description of the five years leading up to the massacre starting with the Stamp Act in 1765. John Adams was anxious to defend the British soldiers because he wanted to prove to the world that the proclaimed values of the colonies were not just empty rhetoric—that true patriots stood behind those words and would go to every end to defend them.

The storyline covers the conflicts between not only England and the colonies but between the patriots and the loyalists. The Boston Massacre is an important moment in history as it set the stage for the American Revolution. The subject is a relevant one as the debate about who is protected by America's rights is raging even now with the question about how accused terrorists should be treated by the US justice system. John Adams takes a risk in defending democracy but it's a risk that, he insists, he must take. Some colonists are disturbed by his defense of the accused soldiers—was he, in fact, betraying his own fledgling country? John Adams is the best lawyer in the colonies, a wit and a lover of courtroom drama—but above all he is a patriot and a defender of democracy.