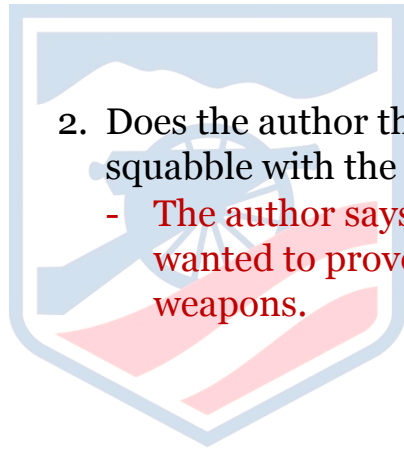




Account of the Boston Massacre Primary Source – Teacher Answer Key

1. Do you think this account was written by an American colonist or a British soldier? What makes you think so?
 - It was written by an American colonist. The language that they use when speaking about the British soldiers is othering, whereas, when speaking of Boston residents, the author uses words like “us, and “our fellow citizens.”



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2. Does the author think that the British soldiers intended to start a squabble with the townspeople?
 - The author says that it appears probable that the British soldiers wanted to provoke the townspeople and make use of their weapons.
3. Who does the author of this account seem to think instigated the fight between the British soldiers and the group of four boys?
 - The author claims that the British acted violently first.
4. Once both sides had gathered on King Street, what actions prompted the British commander to order the soldiers to fire?
 - The civilians began to throw snowballs.



Name: _____

Date: _____

5. Were any British soldiers killed in the Boston Massacre?

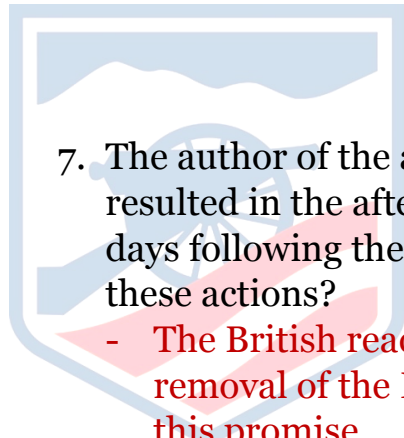
- No.

6. What did the American Council Committee call on the British Lt. Governor to do?

- The committee demanded that all British troops be removed from the town because they could no longer coexist with the townspeople peacefully.

7. The author of the account writes that more tragedy could have resulted in the aftermath of the massacre, but certain actions in the days following the massacre prevented further bloodshed. What were these actions?

- The British reached out to the colonist committee promising the removal of the British troops from Boston and followed through on this promise.



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