When these phrases appeared in the pages of the Pennsylvania Journal for the first time, General George Washington’s troops were encamped at McKonkey’s Ferry on the Delaware River opposite Trenton, New Jersey. In August, they had suffered humiliating defeats and lost New York City to British troops. Between September and December, 11,000 American volunteers gave up the fight and returned to their families. General Washington could foresee the destiny of a rebellion without an army if the rest of his men returned home when their service contracts expired on December 31. He knew that without an upswing in morale and a significant victory, the American Revolution would come to a swift and humiliating end.

Thomas Paine was similarly astute. His Common Sense was the clarion call that began the revolution. As Washington’s troops retreated from New York through New Jersey, Paine again rose to the challenge of literary warfare. With American Crisis, he delivered the words that would salvage the revolution.

Washington commanded that the freshly printed pamphlet be read aloud to his dispirited men; the rousing prose had its intended effect. Reciting Paine’s impassioned words, the beleaguered troops mustered their remaining hopes for victory and crossed the icy Delaware River to defeat hung-over Hessians on Christmas night and on January 2, the British army’s best general, Earl Cornwallis, at the Battle of Princeton. With victory in New Jersey, Washington won not only two battles, butalso the love and thanks of man and woman.

**AMERICAN CRISIS by Thomas Paine**

THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. **Tyranny**, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this **consolation** with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we **esteem** too lightly: it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so **celestial** an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated. Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared that she has a right (not only to TAX) but "to **BIND** us in ALL CASES WHATSOEVER" and if being bound in that manner, is not slavery, then is there not such a thing as slavery upon earth. Even the expression is **impious**; for so unlimited a power can belong only to God.

1. Make a prediction
2. Read the text. Write at least 3 questions and / or comments in the margins as you read.
3. Define the vocabulary in context.
4. Read again to identify figurative language
5. Complete the questions / activities.

From the context (how it is used in the sentence) try to define the following words:

Tyranny –

Consolation –

Esteem –

Celestial -

Bind –

Impious -

TEXT DEPENDENCY PRACTICE

1. In the introduction to this activity, the author states that many of Washington’s soldiers were choosing to leave the Continental Army. What does Paine call these men? Highlight it above. Explain the statement. Use the quote in your answer.
2. In the Declaratory Act, Britain had established that they had absolute authority over the colonies. What does Paine compare that action to?