

**The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere, 1931 by GRANT WOOD [1892–1942]**

1. Write a list of at least five different objects they see in the painting.
2. Locate Paul Revere on the horse. Where does he seem to be going and where he has been?
3. How did the artist show that Revere was on an urgent mission?
4. Look at the painting with your eyes squinted. What do you see first?
5. How did the artist emphasize the church?
6. Describe how Wood guides the viewer through the story in this picture. (Follow the road through the scene beginning from the distant lights in the upper right.)
7. Can you guess what time of night this might be? What clues has Wood given us?
8. What is the biggest light source in this scene? Why do you think this?
9. Have you ever seen moonlight this bright? Does it seem natural? Why or why not?
10. What other light in this painting seems unusual for an eighteenth-century village?
11. Guess what some of the buildings are – name them.
12. How is this scene typical of a New England village?
13. Where might someone stand to view this scene from this angle?
14. Discuss what Wood implies about this scene by painting it from this angle?
15. What else makes this village seem not quite real—more like a stage set?
16. Explain why you think this is or is not an appropriate way to depict this important American legend.

**Historical Connections:** Revolutionary War; importance of Boston in colonial and Revolutionary times

**Historical Figures:** Paul Revere; King George III; Patrick Henry; John Adams; Samuel Adams

**Geography:** colonial America

**Literary Connections and Primary Documents:** “Paul Revere’s Ride,” Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (elementary); “The Ride of Trench Tilghman,” Clinton Scollard; “The Concord Hymn,” Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Arts:** perspective; Regionalism