

Adams: There seem to be more deer now than two days ago. All the fawns are being born.

Jefferson: Now you understand why I did not want to stay in the city. I like to work in a natural setting.

Sherman: Show us what you have done.

Jefferson: Here it is. I was hoping that Benjamin Franklin would be here so I could show him the changes.

Sherman: Mr. Franklin did want to come. But he felt sick this morning.

Livingston: I think he works too much. The man is 70 years old. He is still very active in politics.

Sherman: Too active if you ask me. And he is always working on a new invention.

Jefferson: That's what makes him happy. And a man has the right to be happy. That is one of the reasons why we are declaring our independence from Britain.

Sherman: May I read the Declaration?

Jefferson: Certainly, Mr. Sherman.

Narrator: Jefferson gives Sherman a paper. Sherman looks at it and nods his head. Then the men sit on wooden chairs and listen as Sherman reads aloud.

Sherman: Sometimes people feel they have to break the ties with their leaders. They can then become separate and equal as nature and God wanted them to be.

Livingston: That's a great start, Mr. Jefferson. You got right to the point.

Narrator: Adam and Sherman nod. Sherman takes a sip of water before continuing.

Sherman: We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that their Creator gave them certain rights; that among these are life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness.

Adams: The women are not going to like this.

Jefferson: Let us deal with one issue at a time.

Adams: Mr. Jefferson, there are women who want to be a part of this. My wife . . .

Jefferson: Is a smart woman. But not all women have her good sense.

Livingston: Mr. Jefferson is right. Men are better at taking care of things outside the house. Women are better at taking care of things at home.

Sherman: Does that apply to black women?

Jefferson: Only a northerner would ask that question.

Sherman: Please answer my question, Mr. Jefferson.

Jefferson: No.

Sherman: Is that “no” you will not answer my question—or “no” it does not apply to black women?

Jefferson: It does not apply to black women.

Sherman: So black women can work outside the home. In fact, they must work outside their homes if they are to serve their slave masters.

Jefferson: That’s the way things are.

Sherman: How can you hold this view while speaking of freedom and the pursuit of happiness?

Jefferson: You’re missing the point, Mr. Sherman.

Sherman: And you are missing my point, Mr. Jefferson. My point, if you will hear it . . .

Livingston: Do we have to?