Nicholas Kimmel

Ms. Tyree

English II, Per. 7

17 August 2014

John Adams

John Adams was one of the founding fathers of our nation. This means that he was directly involved in the writing of the Constitution of the United States and a member of the Continental Congress, the United States’ first governing body. During his time in the Continental Congress he wrote a series of letters to his wife Abigail and she responded in kind. In these letters we see a firsthand account of what he was experiencing and what was happening in our new nation. We can, through these letters, learn who he was and how he thought.

John Adams is very much at the center of things that are happening to the new nation. He is in a conference with some of the greatest minds of the day. Most of the most powerful and influential people in the thirteen colonies. Every person at their meeting has some kind of talent in public speaking, “an orator, a critic, a statesman,” (Letter 27) He is very excited to be a part of this new and massive undertaking: the creation of a new nation the like of which had never been seen on the face of the planet.

John Adams also cared deeply for his wife and had a close relationship with her. In both his own letters and hers there are mentions that they deeply miss each other. In the sixteenth letter between them John Adams states that “It is a great affliction to me that I cannot write to you oftener than I do.” Adams had entrusted his wife with his estate and considered him as a valuable adviser.

John Adams, throughout his narrative shows that he has his own opinions but is still able to see from the viewpoint of those he doesn’t agree with. Deciding that he wants to try something new he goes to Catholic mass and listens to a sermon. (Letter 27) Although he does not believe in everything that went on in the service and was professed by the people he nonetheless has respect.

While he fits well with all of the other patriots and orators, critics and statesmen (Letter 27) John Adams is still very much a human person and suffers from the things that push on him from all sides. He mentions several times about feeling for the poor people of Boston who were under attack from the British soldiers. (Letter 16) He has compassion, even though he still knows his duties. He also longs to be with and his children but still continues on.

John Adams, while he may be better known for his greatness and accomplishments, nonetheless is still a very human person that we can all connect with on some level. He is a good example of how even our heroes are still human and we also can be like them.