

Chapter 2

Guided Reading Questions for *The Elementary Common Sense of Thomas Paine*

1. In Chapter 2, Thomas Paine wrote the following: “Youngsters can be taken advantage of, or betrayed.” Do you think a young king could be taken advantage of? How?

2. Today, how old do you have to be to before you can be president? Senator? Representative? Governor? Why do you think the framers (those men who wrote our Constitution) put in minimum ages to run for office? (Use an almanac for help if you need one.)

3. In absolute monarchies, Paine reminds us that kings are in charge of everything: business, civilian, and military affairs. This was true even if they had no experience in one or all of these areas. If you could only choose one of these areas (business, civilian, or military), which would be the most important for the monarch to have personal experience in? Why do you think so?

4. At the end of Chapter 2, we learn how much money the king is paid each year. What do you think a king spends his money on?

5. Look once more at the portraits of King George III and Thomas Paine. Which of the them would you borrow a winter coat from? Why?

6. In 1776, Kings lived in palaces and/or castles. Visualize the King’s office. What does it look like? Draw a picture or cartoon of the king in his office.

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