DANGEROUS CROSSING

They went straight to their cabin. Soon the ship began to pitch, rocking violently back and forth. They could not sit or stand without being knocked about. “It was with the utmost difficulty,” John Adams remembered, “that my little son and I could hold ourselves in bed with both our hands, and bracing ourselves against the boards, planks, and timbers with our feet.”

Suddenly, there was a flash of light. C-R-R-AAACK! The ship shuddered from the blow. Johnny and his father shared a worried glance. Was that cannon fire? Had the British frigate overtaken them? Would the firing continue until they surrendered? Or would the Boston fight until it sank beneath the waves?

In truth, there were no cannons at work. “The ship has been struck by lightning!” an officer told them. The main mast was shattered, and four crew members were hurt.

For three more days and nights, the storm continued. Chests and casks were tossed about like straw, and no one could stay dry or walk steadily on deck. “The Wind blowing against the current . . . produced a tumbling Sea,” Adams observed. “Vast mountains of water breaking on the ship threatened to bury us all at once in the deep.”
DANGEROUS CROSSING

Through it all, Johnny was proud that his father stayed calm. He was a practical man, and there was nothing to gain by making a fuss.

Finally, the skies cleared. But the pale sunlight fell on a broken ship. Sails were ripped, masts splintered. Even worse, the Boston had been blown hundreds of miles off course. As the captain surveyed the damage, he had only one bit of good news.

At least the British frigate was gone.

1. Quote the text detail that helps you visualize Johnny's experience with the storm.

This text detail helps me to visualize Johnny's experience with the storm: "Vast mountains of breaking on the ship threatened to us all at once ."

2. What evidence does the author provide to support the idea that John Adams wasn't extremely bothered by this event?

According to the , John Adams wasn't extremely by this event because the says "Johnny was that his father stayed ."