

## Impact Statement

Zi Rui Zhong, Grade 8.

***The Woman of the Culper Ring***, 2022.

Mixed media, 20 x 12 Inches.

Piedmont High School, Piedmont, CA

Unsung Hero: Anna Smith Strong

"I am one of those who never knows the direction of my journey until I have almost arrived," Anna Smith Strong stated.

The reason why Anna stood out and inspired me is that she was one of the only female members of the Culper Spy Ring. The Culper Spy Ring was a group that was organized by General George Washington and Benjamin Tallmadge during the American Revolution. Anna's main contribution to the Culper Spy Ring was to relay signals to couriers. She used her laundry to indicate when the information would be delivered to other spies. During the time, women were underprivileged and mistreated. I find it inspirational that Anna joined the Culper Spy Ring knowing that others may not support her in this quest.

Anna Smith Strong is a woman that has portrayed many virtues while she was a member of the Culper Spy Ring. The ones that I feel best fit her are courage, reliability, and diligence. Anna is courageous, shown by how brave she was to take on such responsibility of relaying information to other spies. Relaying information also indicated that Anna was a very reliable, well-trusted person who was worthy of such an important job. Diligence is also a virtue that describes Anna Strong. She was both careful and persevering with her responsibilities. In short, I believe that Anna is a very courageous, reliable, and diligent person.

As shown in my mixed piece artwork, you can see the light brown paper in the background. This helps show that the event Anna Smith Strong contributed to was from a long time ago. I made the background paper by crumbling them, then bathing them in a mixture of ground coffee, tea, and water. In my artwork, I added old scraps with writings to bring aesthetic appeal to my art piece. These scraps were used to express the time period of the event which was from 1775 to 1783. As shown in the centre of my canvas, there is a portrait of Anna which I drew with pencils, erasers, and charcoal. I wanted to portray a very visual art piece that has its main focus on what Anna Strong did in the Culper Spy Ring (which was relaying signals with laundry). This is why I used coloured fabric with paper ropes and cut-up wood pieces for clips! I used coloured fabric instead of white, grey, or black fabric because I wanted the laundry to pop out the most. The reason why the laundry is in purple is that the international women's day's colour is purple. I wanted to show how much Anna achieved as a woman in the 1700s-1800s. In my piece, I also added little accessories to add texture and to make my art piece more dimensional (3D). Lastly, I added a printed symbol using a fabric of the Culper Spy Ring, and some decorations.

My art piece of Anna Smith Strong will be shown with all members of the community in my school, St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School at our upcoming art show on May 16th, 2022. My artwork also links to our school-wide focus on The Virtue Project. This project stresses the importance of character development for every member of our school community.