

The Gettysburg Address

Abraham Lincoln

How does Lincoln turn a ceremony for the dead into a task for the living?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Bliss copy - complete address

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty,
END	and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.
PASSAGE ID	sec-gettysburg-01

THE MOVE

Trace how the purpose of a speech shifts from remembrance to obligation

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Lincoln begins with the nation's founding proposition and the present test of civil war. At the battlefield, he then argues that words cannot truly dedicate what sacrifice has already consecrated. That reversal transfers the responsibility from honoring the dead to continuing their unfinished work.

MARK

Underline references to the nation's founding idea. Circle words connected to dedication. Box the sentence saying the ground cannot really be dedicated by the speakers. Star the phrases that assign work to the living.

NOTICE

- What is being tested by the war?
- Why does Lincoln say the speakers cannot consecrate the ground?

- What replaces ceremonial dedication as the speech's real purpose?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Lincoln turn a ceremony for the dead into a task for the living? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

Lincoln turns remembrance into obligation by arguing that the soldiers' actions have already dedicated the battlefield. The living therefore honor them not mainly through words but by committing themselves to the unfinished work and the survival of democratic government.

EVIDENCE

Use the passage that limits the speakers' power to dedicate and one later phrase assigning a task to the living.

WATCH FOR

Do not summarize the speech only as honoring fallen soldiers. Its central turn is toward what the living must do next.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE • GRADE 8 • LESSON 287

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WORK	The Gettysburg Address
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Bliss copy - complete address
PASSAGE ID	sec-gettysburg-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty,

END

and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline references to the nation's founding idea. Circle words connected to dedication. Box the sentence saying the ground cannot really be dedicated by the speakers. Star the phrases that assign work to the living.
2. NOTICE What is being tested by the war? Why does Lincoln say the speakers cannot consecrate the ground? What replaces ceremonial dedication as the speech's real purpose?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does Lincoln turn a ceremony for the dead into a task for the living?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.