

# Close Analytic Reading of *The Gettysburg Address*



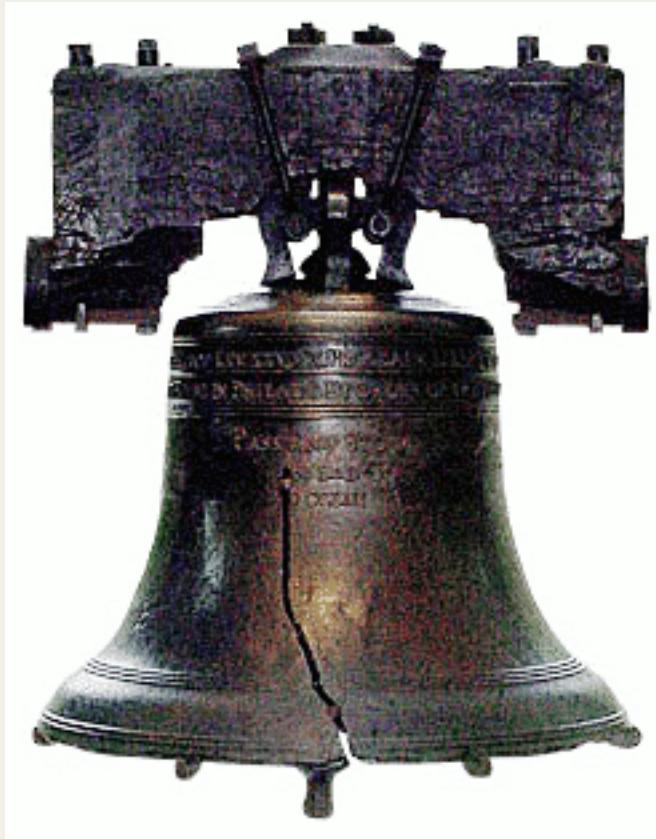
# Text and Multi Media Sources

- Non – Fiction Work: Abraham Lincoln’s *Gettysburg Address*
- Multimedia: NPR Media Player- Audio of The Gettysburg Address ( November 18, 2003)
- <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1512410>

# Purpose for lesson:

- Core Understanding and Key Understandings:
- Increase our familiarity and understanding of Lincoln's speech.
- How will we do this?
- Complete text dependent Questions and Writing Task that require the critical thinking, academic discussion and evidence from the text.

# Part 1- A Nation as a Place and an Idea



# **Text Features- *The Gettysburg Address***

- Title- Date
- Underline Academic Vocabulary
- Annotations
- Numbered Lines

# Answer Packet

- 4- Sections
- Writing Task
- Overarching Questions
- Discussion Points used to formulate answers

# **Read Silently, then listen!**

- **Read Silently-** Circle unfamiliar vocabulary , words that are repeated or of interest
- **Listen** for the “ twist and turns” of Lincoln’s speech

# Stop!

- After reading & listening to the entire speech- write a few sentences that translates , not summarizes what Lincoln was saying in the first paragraph of “The Gettysburg Address.”
- **Paraphrase Paragraph 1 in the space below.**

# Overarching Question 1- In the first sentence, what does Lincoln tell us about this new nation?

- Guiding Questions & Academic Vocabulary
- 1. What does Lincoln mean by “ four score and seven years ago?” Who are “ our fathers”?
- 2. What does **conceived** mean?
- 3. What does **proposition** mean?
- 4. What is he saying is significant about America? Is he saying no one has been free or equal before? So what is new?

# Steps to Answer – Text Dependent Question

- 1. Reread the section related to the question.
- 2. Identify evidence that you can use in your answer.
- 3. Craft an answer that includes: evidence from the text, citation, and an explanation of how the evidence supports an answer to the question.

## Sample Answer: #1-

- In the first sentence Lincoln states that the new nation was “ **conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.**” This tells us that the nation was created freely and dedicated to ideas of equality for everyone.

# Overarching Question #2- What happened four score and seven years ago?

- Guiding Question & Academic Vocabulary
- 1. When was “four score and seven years ago?”
- 2. What important thing happened in 1776?
- 3. What does Lincoln tell us in the first sentence happened 87 years ago?
- 4. Who are “our fathers”? What can we know about “our fathers” from this sentence?
- 5. What is the impact of Lincoln referring to such famous dates?

# STOP

- Now you will use the information discussed, reflect and rewrite your translation of the first paragraph.
- Rewrite your translation in the space below.

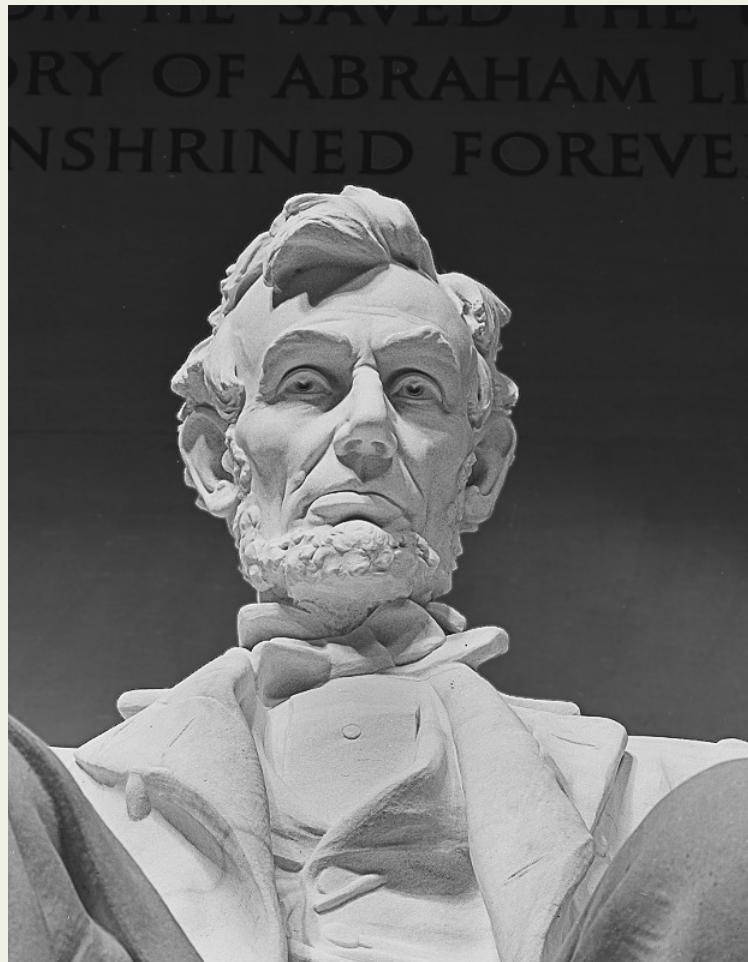
# Overarching Question #3 What is being tested by war?

- **Discussion Questions:**
- 1. What impact does starting the sentence with “now” have on its meaning?
- 2. When Lincoln says the nation was “so conceived and so dedicated” what is he referring to?
- 3. What is the point of including the phrase “or any nation so conceived and so dedicated” - what would the sentence mean without it?”
- 4. What if Lincoln had used the verb “start” instead of “conceive?”

# Techniques to consider

- Pay attention to meanings of key academic words.  
What words do you think my be important so far?
- Take apart long sentences – remove clauses to examine meaning.
- Does the author put forward a point of view to establish the importance of their point of view?
- How does the author begin?

# Part 2: From Funeral to New Birth The Gettysburg Address



# Overarching Question # 4- What are the people who are assembled at Gettysburg there to do?

- Guiding Questions:
- Divide and discuss the 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence of the second paragraph. What is Lincoln saying?
- Read, Listen and Translate 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph

# Stop:

- Reread Paragraph 3 Silently.
- Listen to Paragraph 3
- Now- Paraphrase Paragraph 3

# Overarching Question #5- What did those who fought at Gettysburg do that those who have gathered cannot?

- **Guiding Questions & Academic Vocabulary :**
- What is the impact of starting the paragraph with “but”?
- What does Lincoln describe as the impact of those who fought at Gettysburg?
- What does the word “ rather” mean in this sentence?
- How does Lincoln use the idea of “ unfinished work” to assign responsibility to his listeners?
- What are 4 ideas does Lincoln ask his listeners to commit themselves to at the end of the speech?

# Stop ! Rewrite the translation of your 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph!

- Think about what you have read and what has been discussed to write a few sentences translating, not summarizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of this speech.

# Part 3: Dedication as National Identity and Personal Devotion The Gettysburg Address

- Overarching Question # 7- How does the meaning of the word “ dedicate” change over the course of the text, and what does that reveal about the Gettysburg address?

- **Guiding Questions & Academic Vocabulary:**
- 1. What does the word “ rather” mean in this sentence?
- 2. How does Lincoln use the idea of “ unfinished work” to assign responsibility to listeners?
- 3. What four specific ideas does Lincoln ask his listeners to commit themselves to at the end of the speech?
- 4. How is “ dedicate” used the next two times, and how does it relate to the word consecrate? Who is now doing the dedicating?
- 5. How does Lincoln use “ dedicate” the final two times, and how does it relate to devotion? (16-18)
- Stop- Revise your translation of the third paragraph.

# Part 4- Evidence – Based Claim- Gettysburg Address

- “ In the last paragraph of the “Gettysburg Address,” Lincoln shifts the focus of his speech away from what he says is its purpose at the end of the second paragraph. What reasons did he give for the shift in focus? What does Lincoln think is the task left to those listening to his speech?

# Techniques

- Pay attention to meaning of key academic words.
- Taking sentence apart- removing clauses
- “ How does the author establish why what they are saying is important?”
- Important- when and how to begin
  
- Source
- <http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/High-School-Exemplar-Lincoln-Gettysburg-Address.pdf>