Words That Endure

Use historical context to prepare a meaningful recitation.

7.P.CP.2.e "Build background knowledge by reciting all or part of significant poems and speeches as appropriate by grade level. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details you could use to introduce an excerpt aloud, then circle three words or phrases that express Lincoln's big ideas. These marks will help you recite with understanding.

A Short Speech, Lasting Ideas

1. On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln spoke at the dedication of a national cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The cemetery held many Union soldiers killed during the Battle of Gettysburg, fought that July. Lincoln was not the main speaker. Edward Everett, a well-known orator, spoke for about two hours before Lincoln gave his address. Lincoln's speech lasted only a few minutes, yet its words became one of the best-known speeches in United States history. It remains a frequent subject of study and recitation.

2. Lincoln's address refers to the nation's birth in 1776 and to the idea that all people are created equal. He says that the living must continue the work of those who died. Near the end, he describes "government of the people, by the people, for the people." These linked phrases emphasize who holds power in a democracy. The speech connects sacrifice, equality, and self-government. Its ideas challenged listeners to think about the nation's future and responsibility.

3. Lincoln did not call the cemetery a finished achievement. He said the nation was "testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure." This claim makes the address more than a speech about one battle. It asks listeners to consider whether a country founded on equality can survive hardship. Knowing the occasion and the claim can help a reciter present the words as connected ideas, rather than as a string of memorized sounds.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a one-sentence spoken introduction that names the speaker, place, and occasion for this address.

2. What fact about 1776 helps you understand Lincoln's idea about equality?

3. Name the three connected ideas that a reciter should help listeners notice in the address.

4. Paraphrase the question Lincoln asks listeners to consider about the nation.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a two-to-four-sentence excerpt from a significant speech, or four-to-eight consecutive lines from a significant poem, using Lincoln's address or another teacher-approved text. Write a one-sentence spoken introduction that names the source, author or speaker, and historical occasion or topic, then recite your selection aloud with clear phrasing.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Endure

GRADE 7 · 7.P.CP.2.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details you could use to introduce an excerpt aloud, then circle three words or phrases that express Lincoln's big ideas. These marks will help you recite with understanding. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a one-sentence spoken introduction that names the speaker, place, and occasion for this address.	**Abraham Lincoln spoke at the dedication of a national cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863.**
2	What fact about 1776 helps you understand Lincoln's idea about equality?	**The address refers to the nation's birth in 1776 and the idea that all people are created equal.**
3	Name the three connected ideas that a reciter should help listeners notice in the address.	**Sacrifice, equality, and self-government.**
4	Paraphrase the question Lincoln asks listeners to consider about the nation.	**He asks whether a country founded on equality can survive hardship and continue to endure.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This excerpt comes from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, spoken at the dedication of a cemetery for Union soldiers in Gettysburg in 1863. "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." "Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure."

Accept equivalent introductions and paraphrases that are supported by the passage. For Part 3, confirm that the student identifies the source and context accurately and recites the selected passage as connected ideas.