Words That Last

Read a historic speech excerpt and plan a clear recitation.

4.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 Number the five quoted lines 1–5. Underline one repeated word or phrase, and circle punctuation that can help you plan your speaking.

A Speech to Remember

1. Speeches and poems can carry history in a small number of carefully chosen words. When people recite them, they share ideas that mattered at an important time. The Gettysburg Address was spoken by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863, during the Civil War. It honored soldiers who died at the Battle of Gettysburg and reminded the nation of its founding ideas.

2. At Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln gave a short speech during the Civil War. These five lines come from the beginning of the Gettysburg Address. Read them as an excerpt, not as separate ideas:

   "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,"

3. To prepare to recite an excerpt, first learn what the words mean and where one thought ends. Notice repeated words, important ideas, and punctuation. Plan your pace so listeners can follow the meaning. Practice a few lines at a time, using a steady, clear voice. Then connect the lines so the excerpt sounds like one complete message.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which word repeats in line 1 and line 3? Write the word.

2. Which numbered line ends a complete sentence? How do you know?

3. Line 2 ends with a comma. What should a speaker do there before continuing to line 3?

4. Write the six-word idea at the end of line 4 that a speaker should say clearly.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose any two consecutive lines from the excerpt. Copy them, then show one place where you will pause with a slash and name one word you will emphasize. Actually recite your chosen lines to a partner, using the pause and emphasis. The listener checks the words against the excerpt and says one idea heard; switch roles. Keep the text in view if needed.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Last

GRADE 4 · 4.P.CP.2.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the five quoted lines 1–5. Underline one repeated word or phrase, and circle punctuation that can help you plan your speaking. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which word repeats in line 1 and line 3? Write the word.	**and**
2	Which numbered line ends a complete sentence? How do you know?	**Line 4. It ends with a period.**
3	Line 2 ends with a comma. What should a speaker do there before continuing to line 3?	**Make a short pause, then continue speaking.**
4	Write the six-word idea at the end of line 4 that a speaker should say clearly.	**that all men are created equal**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

that all men are created equal. /
Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
Emphasize: equal.

Accept the exact answers for Questions 1, 2, and 4. For Question 3, accept a response that describes a brief pause before the speaker continues, and accept reasonable pause and emphasis choices in Part 3. Display the five excerpt lines separately; these are classroom line breaks, not separate Lincoln sentences. Line 4 ends the sentence; line 2 ends in a comma; and occurs in lines 1 and 3; that all men are created equal has six words. Observe supported actual two-line recitation and a listener wording/meaning check. Original quote words verified previously against the primary National Park Service Lincoln Memorial Bliss-version transcript (nps.gov/linc/learn/historyculture/gettysburgaddress.htm); words unchanged, only classroom line breaks and model pause slash added. No memorization requirement.