

Week 3

Reading

● Nonfiction

○ “FDR’s First Inaugural Address”

(1933) Franklin Delano Roosevelt

■ In 1933 the US was in the grip of the Great Depression. At his inauguration, Roosevelt delivered the following famous speech, in which he addresses the growing fear that plagued a nation in crisis

■ Answer the ACT style multiple choice questions and practice answering questions in complete sentences.

● Fiction

○ “On a Mountain Trail”

(1890) Harry Perry Robinson

■ Read the story, pay special attention to topics or big ideas that come up in the text. As you read, notice how the people are reacting to the visitors, and consider what message the author reveals about our society

■ Answer the ACT style multiple choice questions and practice answering questions in complete sentences.

● Poetry

○ “When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be”

(1848) John Keats

■ Read the poem, and pay special attention to the poem’s theme and how the structure of the poem contributes to that theme.

■ Answer the ACT style multiple choice questions and practice answering questions in complete sentences.

Writing

NOTE: Write these down in a journal, a note on your phone, or a google doc. Don't stress out about getting every detail right or grammar rule right the first time, just tell your story. If you like it, tweek it, make it better and tell it to a friend or family member. One day your children and grandchildren will study Covid-19 in history class and will want to hear your stories.

● Writings 1 & 2

- Write a narrative about your life or experiences.
- Don't like this prompt? That's okay, write about whatever you want to write about.
- The important part is that you write, and then read that writing. The best way to become a better writer is to READ and to WRITE.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Writing 1</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tell us about a time you looked up to the wrong person.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Writing Two</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tell us about a time you got cold feet.</p>
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Hello students, parents, guardians, and more!

Ms. Hester and Mrs. Hanna have worked hard to give you something to keep your brain engaged while you're safe at home amidst the Covid-19 safer-at-home response. We have put together reading and writing practice that you can do on your own at home in half an hour or less a day. Each week you have 3 readings (nonfiction, fiction, & poetry) and 2 writing prompts. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO THESE ASSIGNMENTS.** They are meant to keep you sharp so that when we return to classes in August your brain hasn't been sitting on the sidelines for 5 months. **PARENTS:** More than anything, encouraging your student to read and write in any capacity is going to help them avoid the "summer slide." Writing in a personal journal, following our narrative prompts, or writing a story of their own are all good practice. Reading, as a cornerstone skill, is important to success in all subjects, but it doesn't all look the same. Just because your student is reading anime instead of the classics doesn't mean they aren't getting the benefits of reading. Encourage them to read anything and everything: news articles about the pandemic, fictional books as an escape, dystopia to deal with the dread and hopelessness that some feel, even magazines or subtitles on Netflix are better than not reading at all. One of the best ways to encourage your student to read is for them to see you reading. We have parents that will read alongside their student and have come to learn a lot about their student and have found a doorway into conversation that can sometimes be difficult.

More than anything, Ms. Hester and Mrs. Hanna want their students to know that they are valued, loved, and missed. Although our school year didn't end the same way it has in the past doesn't make our time together any less special. We look forward to seeing you in the halls next year.

To keep updated on administrative decisions regarding the pick-up of belongings, class enrollment for next year, and grade configuration you can check the school website often, and follow Guthrie Public Schools on Facebook.

Please feel free to reach out to either of us via email with any questions, but allow a day or two for response in case we are inundated with questions and requests.

Thank you for your continued support

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Name: _____ Class: _____

FDR's First Inaugural Address

By President Franklin Delano Roosevelt
1933

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected President of the United States on March 4, 1933, the country was in the grip of the Great Depression. At his inauguration, Roosevelt delivered the following famous speech, in which he addresses the growing fear that plagued a nation in crisis. As you read, identify Roosevelt's purpose in the speech and take notes on the rhetorical techniques he uses to make his points.

[1] I am certain that my fellow Americans expect that on my induction into the Presidency I will address them with a candor¹ and a decision which the present situation of our people impel.² This is preeminently³ the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.



"Franklin D. Roosevelt's First Inauguration" by US Capitol is in the public domain.

In such a spirit on my part and on yours we face our common difficulties. They concern, thank God, only material things. Values have shrunken to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment⁴ of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone.

More important, a host of unemployed citizens face the grim problem of existence, and an equally great number toil with little return. Only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment.

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1. **Candor** (*noun*): frankness, truthfulness, honesty; the quality of being open and honest in expression
 2. **Impel** (*verb*): to drive, force, or urge (someone) to do something
 3. **Preeminently** (*adverb*): above all; in particular
 4. **Curtailment** (*noun*): reduction or restriction

Yet our distress comes from no failure of substance. We are stricken by no plague of locusts.⁵ Compared with the perils which our forefathers conquered because they believed and were not afraid, we have still much to be thankful for. Nature still offers her bounty and human efforts have multiplied it. Plenty is at our doorstep, but a generous use of it languishes⁶ in the very sight of the supply. Primarily this is because the rulers of the exchange of mankind's goods have failed, through their own stubbornness and their own incompetence, have admitted their failure, and abdicated.⁷ Practices of the unscrupulous⁸ money changers stand indicted⁹ in the court of public opinion, rejected by the hearts and minds of men.

- [5] True they have tried, but their efforts have been cast in the pattern of an outworn tradition. Faced by failure of credit they have proposed only the lending of more money. Stripped of the lure of profit by which to induce our people to follow their false leadership, they have resorted to exhortations, pleading tearfully for restored confidence. They know only the rules of a generation of self-seekers. They have no vision, and when there is no vision the people perish.

The money changers have fled from their high seats in the temple of our civilization. We may now restore that temple to the ancient truths. The measure of the restoration lies in the extent to which we apply social values more noble than mere monetary profit.

Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort. The joy and moral stimulation of work no longer must be forgotten in the mad chase of evanescent¹⁰ profits. These dark days will be worth all they cost us if they teach us that our true destiny is not to be ministered unto but to minister to ourselves and to our fellow men.

Recognition of the falsity of material wealth as the standard of success goes hand in hand with the abandonment of the false belief that public office and high political position are to be valued only by the standards of pride of place and personal profit; and there must be an end to a conduct in banking and in business which too often has given to a sacred trust the likeness of callous¹¹ and selfish wrongdoing. Small wonder that confidence languishes, for it thrives only on honesty, on honor, on the sacredness of obligations, on faithful protection, on unselfish performance; without them it cannot live.

Restoration calls, however, not for changes in ethics alone. This Nation asks for action, and action now.

- [10] Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the Government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of a war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our natural resources.

5. A reference to a story in the Old Testament, in which God inflicted a plague of locusts – a type of flying grasshopper – upon Egypt to persuade the Pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery.

6. **Languish (verb):** to grow weak or feeble; to decline or deteriorate

7. **Abdicate (verb):** to give up a title or resign from a position, often due to failure to uphold one's duties

8. **Unscrupulous (adjective):** having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair

9. **Indict (verb):** to formally accuse of or charge with a serious crime

10. **Evanescent (adjective):** fleeting, short-lived; gradually disappearing from sight or memory

11. **Callous (adjective):** showing no concern for others; cruel or cold

Hand in hand with this we must frankly recognize the overbalance of population in our industrial centers and, by engaging on a national scale in a redistribution, endeavor to provide a better use of the land for those best fitted for the land. The task can be helped by definite efforts to raise the values of agricultural products and with this the power to purchase the output of our cities. It can be helped by preventing realistically the tragedy of the growing loss through foreclosure of our small homes and our farms. It can be helped by insistence that the Federal, State, and local governments act forthwith on the demand that their cost be drastically reduced. It can be helped by the unifying of relief activities which today are often scattered, uneconomical, and unequal. It can be helped by national planning for and supervision of all forms of transportation and of communications and other utilities which have a definitely public character. There are many ways in which it can be helped, but it can never be helped merely by talking about it. We must act and act quickly.

Finally, in our progress toward a resumption of work we require two safeguards against a return of the evils of the old order; there must be a strict supervision of all banking and credits and investments; there must be an end to speculation with other people's money, and there must be provision for an adequate but sound currency.

There are the lines of attack. I shall presently urge upon a new Congress in special session detailed measures for their fulfillment, and I shall seek the immediate assistance of the several States.

Through this program of action we address ourselves to putting our own national house in order and making income balance outgo. Our international trade relations, though vastly important, are in point of time and necessity secondary to the establishment of a sound national economy. I favor as a practical policy the putting of first things first. I shall spare no effort to restore world trade by international economic readjustment, but the emergency at home cannot wait on that accomplishment.

- [15] The basic thought that guides these specific means of national recovery is not narrowly nationalistic. It is the insistence, as a first consideration, upon the interdependence of the various elements in all parts of the United States—a recognition of the old and permanently important manifestation of the American spirit of the pioneer. It is the way to recovery. It is the immediate way. It is the strongest assurance that the recovery will endure.

In the field of world policy I would dedicate this Nation to the policy of the good neighbor—the neighbor who resolutely respects himself and, because he does so, respects the rights of others—the neighbor who respects his obligations and respects the sanctity of his agreements in and with a world of neighbors.

If I read the temper of our people correctly, we now realize as we have never realized before our interdependence on each other; that we cannot merely take but we must give as well; that if we are to go forward, we must move as a trained and loyal army willing to sacrifice for the good of a common discipline, because without such discipline no progress is made, no leadership becomes effective. We are, I know, ready and willing to submit our lives and property to such discipline, because it makes possible a leadership which aims at a larger good. This I propose to offer, pledging that the larger purposes will bind upon us all as a sacred obligation with a unity of duty hitherto evoked only in time of armed strife.

With this pledge taken, I assume unhesitatingly the leadership of this great army of our people dedicated to a disciplined attack upon our common problems.

Action in this image and to this end is feasible¹² under the form of government which we have inherited from our ancestors. Our Constitution is so simple and practical that it is possible always to meet extraordinary needs by changes in emphasis and arrangement without loss of essential form. That is why our constitutional system has proved itself the most superbly enduring political mechanism the modern world has produced. It has met every stress of vast expansion of territory, of foreign wars, of bitter internal strife, of world relations.

- [20] It is to be hoped that the normal balance of executive and legislative authority may be wholly adequate to meet the unprecedented task before us. But it may be that an unprecedented demand and need for undelayed action may call for temporary departure from that normal balance of public procedure.

I am prepared under my constitutional duty to recommend the measures that a stricken nation in the midst of a stricken world may require. These measures, or such other measures as the Congress may build out of its experience and wisdom, I shall seek, within my constitutional authority, to bring to speedy adoption.

But in the event that the Congress shall fail to take one of these two courses, and in the event that the national emergency is still critical, I shall not evade the clear course of duty that will then confront me. I shall ask the Congress for the one remaining instrument to meet the crisis—broad Executive power to wage a war against the emergency, as great as the power that would be given to me if we were in fact invaded by a foreign foe.

For the trust reposed in me I will return the courage and the devotion that befit the time. I can do no less.

We face the arduous¹³ days that lie before us in the warm courage of the national unity; with the clear consciousness of seeking old and precious moral values; with the clean satisfaction that comes from the stern performance of duty by old and young alike. We aim at the assurance of a rounded and permanent national life.

- [25] We do not distrust the future of essential democracy. The people of the United States have not failed. In their need they have registered a mandate¹⁴ that they want direct, vigorous action. They have asked for discipline and direction under leadership. They have made me the present instrument of their wishes. In the spirit of the gift I take it.

In this dedication of a Nation we humbly ask the blessing of God. May He protect each and every one of us. May He guide me in the days to come.

"FDR's First Inaugural Address" by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933) is in the public domain.

12. **Feasible** (*adjective*): possible; doable

13. **Arduous** (*adjective*): difficult and tiring; involving or requiring strenuous effort

14. **Mandate** (*noun*): the authority to carry out a policy or course of action

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. Which of the following best explains how FDR introduces the central idea of the speech?
 - A. He reassures the public, introducing his central idea that the United States is not as bad off as everyone thinks.
 - B. He praises the hard work of laborers and business men, then introduces his central idea that with more hard work the economy can be healed.
 - C. He reassures the public, promising candor and decisiveness in his leadership, then introduces his central idea: a plan for promoting prosperity in the face of decline.
 - D. He blames the previous people in government and business, thereby introducing his central idea that the American decline is due to greed and corruption.

2. PART A: Explain in your own words the following famous quote from FDR's First Inaugural Address: "...the only thing we have to fear is fear itself..." (Paragraph 1)

3. PART B: How does the quote mentioned in Part A support the overall rhetoric of the speech? In other words, explain the quote's purpose and what it adds to the speech's tone, persuasiveness, etc.

4. PART A: What connection does FDR draw between values, or ethics, and national prosperity?
- A. FDR disproves the idea that the declining value in hard work has caused the Great Depression.
 - B. FDR claims that the value placed on monetary wealth has been renewed and, driven by this goal, the people will work hard to attain it, promoting national prosperity.
 - C. FDR states that the nation's strife is due in part to failing values and ethical conduct (i.e. in banks, in business, etc.).
 - D. FDR reasserts the idea that the declining value in hard work and the subsequent creation of labor unions has caused the Great Depression.
5. PART B: Which phrase from paragraph 4 best supports the answer to Part A?
- A. "our distress comes from no failure of substance"
 - B. "Plenty is at our doorstep, but a generous use of it languishes in the very sight of the supply"
 - C. "the rulers of the exchange of mankind's goods have failed"
 - D. "Practices of the unscrupulous money changers stand indicted in the court of public opinion"
6. PART A: What does the word "exhortation" most closely mean as it is used in paragraph 5?
- A. An attempt to beg or persuade
 - B. An act of encouragement
 - C. A warning or word of caution
 - D. A type of lecture or sermon
7. PART B: Which phrase from the paragraph provides the best support for the answer to Part A?
- A. "proposed only the lending of more money"
 - B. "pleading tearfully"
 - C. "restored confidence"
 - D. "self-seekers"
8. PART A: What is the effect of FDR's word choice when he mentions "interdependence" in paragraphs 15 and 17?
- A. He recognizes and promotes unity.
 - B. He points to shortcomings in personal independence.
 - C. He emphasizes international ties.
 - D. He warns again reliance on financial risks.
9. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
- A. "In the field of world policy I would dedicate this Nation to the policy of the good neighbor" (Paragraph 16)
 - B. "we cannot merely take but we must give as well" (Paragraph 17)
 - C. "we must move as a trained and loyal army willing to sacrifice for the good of a common discipline" (Paragraph 17)
 - D. "without such discipline no progress is made, no leadership becomes effective" (Paragraph 17)

10. Provide a summary of FDR's planned response to this national crisis, outlining the issues he will address and the steps he intends to take to fix these issues.

Name: _____ Class: _____

On a Mountain Trail

By Harry Perry Robinson
1890

Harry Perry Robinson (1859-1930) was a British author, photographer, and journalist. In 1920, he was knighted by King George V for his coverage of WWI. As you read, take notes on how the author builds suspense in the story.

[1] We had no warning. It was as if they had deliberately lain in ambush for us at the turn in the trail. They seemed suddenly and silently to rise on all sides of the sleigh at once.

It is not often that the gray timber-wolves, or "black wolves," as the mountaineers call them, are seen hunting in packs, though the animal is plentiful enough among the foot-hills of the Rockies. As a general rule they are met with singly or in pairs. At the end of a long and severe winter, however, they sometimes come together in bands of fifteen or twenty; and every old mountaineer has a tale to tell perhaps of his own narrow escape from one of their fierce packs, perhaps of some friend of his who started one day in winter to travel alone from camp to camp, and whose clean-picked bones were found beside the trail long afterward.



"Angry wolf" by Tambako the Jaguar is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0.

It was in February, and we, Gates and myself, were driving from Livingston, Montana, to Gulch City, fifty miles away, with a load of camp supplies — a barrel of flour and some bacon, coffee, and beans; a blanket or two, and some dynamite (or "giant powder," as the miners call it) for blasting; a few picks and shovels, and other odds and ends. We had started at daybreak. By five o'clock in the evening, with some ten miles more to travel, the worst of the trail was passed. There had been little snow that winter, so that even in the gulches and on the bottoms the exposed ground was barely covered; while, on the steep slopes, snow had almost entirely disappeared, leaving only ragged patches of white under overhanging boughs, and a thin coating of ice in the inequalities of the hard, frost-bound trail, making a treacherous footing for the horses' hoofs.

The first forty miles of the road had lain entirely over hills — zigzagging up one side of a mountain only to zigzag down the other — with the dense growth of pine and tamarack¹ and cedar on both sides, wreathed here and there in mist. But at last we were clear of the foot-hills and reached the level. The tall forest trees gave place to a wilderness of thick underbrush, lying black in the evening air, and the horses swung contentedly from the steep grade into the level trail, where at last they could let their legs move freely in a trot.

1. a type of North American coniferous tree

- [5] Hardly had they settled into their stride, however, when both animals shied violently to the left side of the trail. A moment later they plunged back to the right side so suddenly as almost to throw me off into the brush.

Then, out of the earth and the shadow of the bushes, the grim, dark forms seemed to rise on all sides of us. There was not a sound — not a snap nor a snarl; but in the gathering twilight of the February evening, we saw them moving noiselessly over the thin coat of snow which covered the ground. In the uncertain light, and moving as rapidly as we did, it was impossible to guess how many they were. An animal which was one moment in plain sight, running abreast of the horses, would, the next moment, be lost in the shadow of the bushes, while two more dark, silent forms would edge up to take its place. So, on both sides of us, they kept appearing and disappearing. In the rear, half a dozen jostled one another to push up nearer to the flying sleigh — a black mass that filled the whole width of the trail. Behind those again, others, less clearly visible, crossed and recrossed the roadway from side to side. They might be twenty in all — or thirty — or forty. It was impossible to tell.

For a minute I did not think of danger. The individual wolf is the most skulking and cowardly of animals, and only by some such experience as we had that night does a hunter learn that wolves can be dangerous. But soon the stories of the old mountaineers came crowding into my mind, as the horses, terrified and snorting, plunged wildly along the narrow trail, while the ghostlike forms glided patiently alongside — appearing, disappearing, and reappearing. The silent pertinacity² with which, apparently making no effort, they kept pace beside the flying horses was horrible. Even a howl or a yelp or a growl would have been a relief. But not so much as the sound of their footfalls on the snow was to be heard.

At the first sight of the wolves, I had drawn my revolver from the leather case in which it hung suspended from my belt. Gates, handling the reins, was entirely occupied with the horses; but I knew, without need of words, that he saw our pursuers and understood the peril as well as I.

“Have you your gun?” I shouted in his ear.

- [10] A negative shake of the head was all the answer. So we must trust to the six cartridges in my revolver.

“How many wolves are there, do you suppose?” again I called.

Again he shook his head, as if to say that he could not guess.

So the minutes passed and we swept on, rising and falling and swaying with the inequalities in the trail. The dark forms, growing more indistinct each minute, were hanging doggedly³ to the sleigh.

2. **Pertinacious** (*adjective*): stubborn or extremely persistent

3. **Dogged** (*adjective*): determined to do something, even if it is very difficult

Suddenly I became aware that a wolf was almost at my elbow: its head was on a level with my waist as I sat in the low sleigh. In the darkness I could plainly see the white teeth, and the dim circle of the eyes. I hardly had to lean over at all to place the muzzle of the revolver within a foot of the great round head before I fired. I saw the black form roll over and over in the snow as we went by. Simultaneously, two other shadowy shapes that had been running abreast of the horses, in advance of the animal that was shot, dropped back; and looking over my shoulder I could see them throw themselves upon their wounded fellow. As the sea-gulls, following in the wake of a vessel in midocean, swoop from all directions upon some floating scrap that has been thrown overboard, so from both sides of the trail the dark figures rushed together into one struggling mass behind the sleigh; and for the first time we heard them snapping and snarling at one another, as they tore their comrade to pieces.

- [15] The horses appeared to know that in some way a gleam of hope had come. They ceased plunging and seemed to throw all their energies into putting as wide a space as possible between them and the yelping pack behind.

How long would the respite⁴ be? Seconds passed until half a minute had gone. Then a minute. Could it be that they had left us, that the horrible race was over?

But even as the hope was forming itself in my mind, I became aware of a dim, gray thing moving beside me. A moment later another appeared, close by the horses' heads, and behind us the trail was again full of the jostling pack.

It was terrible beyond expression, the utter noiselessness with which they resumed their places — apparently tireless; keeping pace with the racing horses without a sign of effort; patient as fate itself. Have you ever been on a fast steamship — say a "P. and O."⁵ boat in Indian waters where the sea is transparent — and, leaning over the stern, watched a shark following the vessel? If so, you remember how, hour after hour and day after day, the dark, vaguely outlined body, not more distinct than the shadow of a cloud upon the waves, stayed, motionless to all appearance, just so many feet aft in the ship's wake, no matter how fast she moved. To me, and I think to everyone who has seen it, that silent, persistent, haunting presence is the very embodiment of ruthlessness and untiring cruelty. There, in the twilight and shadow, was the same silence, the same indistinctness, the same awing impression of motionless speed, the same horror of the inevitable, in that pursuit by the wolves.

But soon their tactics changed. Either they had grown bolder, or the wolf they had eaten among them had put a keener⁶ edge upon their appetites. There were now four or five of the ghostlike forms moving abreast of the horses on my side of the sleigh alone. On the other side more were visible. They were now closing in upon us, with determination. Suddenly I saw one make a spring at the throat of the off horse, and, missing his aim, fall back. The horses had been terrified before; from that moment they lost all control of themselves neither the driver's voice nor his hands upon the reins had any influence upon them as they tore wildly down the narrow path between the bushes, snorting, throwing their heads from side to side, and breaking now and again into short, shrill neighs of terror. The breath from their nostrils and the steam from their bodies made a white cloud in the wintry night air, almost enveloping them and us, and at times blotting out of sight the wolves beneath.

4. **Respite** (*noun*): a temporary period of rest or relief

5. formerly the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company

6. **Keen** (*adjective*): sharp

[20] But the pack was again closing in. In front of all, I could see one running under the very noses of the horses, keeping just beyond the reach of their hoofs, and evidently waiting for the right moment to make a final leap at their throats. Leaning forward, and steadying my aim as well as I could in the rocking sleigh, I fired full at the whole dark mass in front. Apparently the ball passed harmlessly through them, but in an instant all had vanished — behind and into the bushes — as a swarm of flies vanish at the waving of a handkerchief. Only for a second, however, and one after another they were back again.

A second shot, fired again at random into the mass, was more successful; and once more we saw them drop back and crowd together in the trail behind us while the snapping and snarling grew fainter as the horses plunged on.

Half of the last ten miles had now been traveled, and five miles more would bring us to Gulch City and security. The excitement of that race was unspeakable: the narrow lane of the trail lying white ahead of us and behind us between the dark borders of the brush, seen fitfully through the stream from the maddened horses.

But the respite this time was shorter than before. Once more our relentless foes gathered round us, silently, one by one. The wolves seemed to know as well as we, that time was short and escape lay not far away; for hardly had the pack settled in their places round us before I saw one animal throw himself recklessly at the horses' throats. There was a sudden mad rearing up of both the horses, a wild, despairing neigh, a short yelp from the wolf's throat, and the dark form that had seemed to hang for a moment, leech-like, to the chest of one of our brave beasts was beaten down under the hoofs.

The others did not wait even for the sleigh to pass, but leaped upon the struggling form even as the runners were upon it. In my excitement I did a foolish thing. Leaning over, and thrusting my revolver almost against the skins of the fierce brutes, I fired two shots in quick succession. They had their effect, I know, for I saw one of the dark figures throw itself convulsively out of the mass into the brush, where others sprang upon it, and a death-cry went up in the night air. But we could ill spare the ammunition.

[25] This idea evidently occurred to Gates. Leaning suddenly toward me, but with his eyes fixed on the horses and the road ahead, he called:

"How many shots have you left?"

"Only one."

"Not even one apiece for us?"

And I knew that he was in earnest. I knew also that he was right; that it would be better to die so, than to be torn to pieces by that snarling, hungry crew.

[30] But it was too late now. Five shots out of the six were spent, and twenty minutes yet must pass before we could reach the camp. And even while these few words were being said the pack was close upon us again. Fiercer now, and more determined than ever to make an end of it, they crowded around. One even flung himself at the low side of the sleigh to snap at me, and his teeth caught for a moment in the sleeve of my coat as I struck him on the head with the clenched hand holding the pistol. On both sides, too, they jostled each other, to reach the flying horses, and I knew that in a few seconds more I must sacrifice the last cartridge in my revolver.

As a forlorn⁷ hope I snatched the buffalo-robe which lay on Gates' knees, and threw it to them. But they hardly stopped to tear it to pieces. There was more satisfying food in the sleigh. And they closed around the horses again.

For the first time Gates turned to look at me.

"Jack!" he called excitedly, "the giant powder!"

For a moment I did not grasp his meaning. Seeing my indecision he shouted again:

[35] "The giant powder, Jack!"

Then it came to me. Thrusting the pistol into its case, I scrambled over into the rear part of the sleigh, and as I did so the wolves that were following behind fell back a few feet. Hastily fumbling among the various supplies, I found the old sack in which the sticks of dynamite were wrapped, and with them the small package of caps and fuse. Taking three of the sticks, I tied them tightly together with my handkerchief and, quickly fitting the end of an inch of fuse — for, in this case, the shorter the piece the better — into a cap, I thrust the latter into the center of the three sticks. I was still at work, when a sudden swing of the sleigh and a cry from Gates warned me that something was the matter. The horses were plunging violently, and as the near horse reared I saw that a wolf had leaped upon its withers⁸ and was clinging, with its teeth apparently in the side of the horse's neck. In their terror, the horses had stopped, and were actually backing us into the brush. Something had to be done, and with some vague hope, I fired the last shot from the revolver into the dark circle which already surrounded the plunging horses. The shot had its effect, for one of the brutes leaped into the air with a yelp and fell backward into the bushes. The horse, too, sprang suddenly forward, and the wolf that was clinging to it fell to the ground and was trampled under the hoofs. In an instant, those of the pack that had not already flung themselves upon the wounded animal in the bushes, rushed upon this one that was lying lifeless or stunned from the horses' feet; and once more, for a few seconds, we had breathing space, and the sleigh sped along through the keen air, our enemies snarling and quarreling behind us.

But the last shot was spent!

7. **Forlorn** (*adjective*): hopeless or unlikely to succeed

8. the ridge between the shoulder bones of a horse

Turning my attention again to the giant powder, I fixed the cap and fuse more firmly in their place, and taking off my belt wound that tightly round the whole. Round that again I wrapped one of the old sacks, and tearing off my coat made an extra covering of that, knotting the sleeves tightly on the outside, that the ravenous teeth might be delayed in tearing the bundle apart. Crouching down in the sleigh, I lighted a match, and, as I did so, I saw that the wolves were upon us again, apparently as numerous and as tireless as ever. The match went out; and a second. Crouching lower still, I made a barricade against the wind with anything I could lay my hands on in the sleigh, and at last a dull red spark caught the end of the fuse.

The pack was already crowding round the terrified horses, which, it seemed to me, were almost worn out, and moved more heavily than heretofore. And how slowly the fuse burned! Nursing it carefully with my hands, I blew upon the spark and kept it glowing as it ate its way slowly into the cotton. Why had I not made it shorter? Every moment I expected to feel the sudden jolt which told that the wolves had pulled down one of the horses and that the end had come!

[40] At last the dull red glow had almost reached the end of the cap. A few seconds more and it would explode. Thrusting the bundle hastily into another sack, forgetting even the wolves in my terror lest it should explode in my hands, I threw it with all my force into the midst of the moving forms abreast of the horses.

The beasts flung themselves upon it, and as we swept by, the whole pack was again collected into a struggling, snarling heap beside the trail. We were sweeping round a curve in the road, and before the horses had taken a dozen strides, the brush shut out the path behind us and the wolves.

A moment later and the air and the earth shook around us. I was still standing, clutching the low side of the sleigh, and the concussion threw me upon my face. The report was not the crash of a cannon nor the sharp noise of gunpowder, but a dull, heavy roar like an instantaneous clap of distant thunder. The stillness that followed was intense, but I thought that I heard, from the direction where the wolves had been, one broken, muffled howl.

What had been the effect of it? Both Gates and myself leaned forward and with voice and hand urged the horses on. When would those grim, gray, ruthless forms disappear? The seconds passed; minute followed minute, and the horses, breathing painfully, labored on over the level trail. With every yard traveled, hope grew stronger, until leaning over again I said to Gates:

"I don't believe they're coming, Charlie."

[45] But his only reply was a shake of the reins and another word to the horses.

Then suddenly there came a twinkle of light in the distance. The brush fell away from the trail and the white expanse of the clearing of Gulch City was before us.

For a distance of fifty yards, at a point about a mile and a half north of Gulch City, the old Livingston trail had to be abandoned. It would have been more labor to repair it than to clear a new pathway through the brush. And when I left that part of the country two years afterward, the packers would still turn out of their way for a minute to look at "Giant Hole," and to kick up out of the weeds and brush that had grown around it the skull or part of the skeleton of a wolf.

"On a Mountain Trail" by Harry Perry Robinson (1890) is in the public domain.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What does the word “treacherous” most likely mean, as used in paragraph 3?
 - A. traitorous
 - B. dangerous
 - C. unreliable
 - D. hidden

2. PART B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. “By five o’clock in the evening... the worst of the trail was passed.” (Paragraph 3)
 - B. “There had been little snow that winter... the exposed ground was barely covered” (Paragraph 3)
 - C. “a thin coating of ice in the inequalities of the hard, frost-bound trail” (Paragraph 3)
 - D. “zigzagging up one side of a mountain only to zigzag down the other” (Paragraph 4)

3. What effect does the comparison in paragraph 18 have on the portrayal of wolves?
 - A. It compares the wolves to sharks, highlighting how both animals hunt silently and making them seem almost graceful instead of hungry.
 - B. It compares the wolves to sharks, emphasizing the danger that the men face and the fear that the wolves inspire.
 - C. It compares the wolves to sharks, highlighting the stereotypes associated with each animal and making them seem more dangerous than they are.
 - D. It compares the wolves to sharks, emphasizing the almost supernatural presence of the wolves running through the dark forest.

4. What does the exchange between Gates and the narrator in paragraphs 25-29 reveal about their perspectives on the situation?
 - A. It shows that Gates is ready to give up and die before the wolves get him, but the narrator still believes they will make it to Gulch City alive.
 - B. It reveals that the narrator is shocked by Gates’ suggestion of saving bullets for themselves, as he has underestimated the danger they are in.
 - C. It shows that both men, particularly Gates, have no idea how much danger they are in because they joke about the number of bullets.
 - D. It reveals that both men, particularly Gates, believe that their situation is dire and that they would rather hurt themselves than allow the wolves to get them.

5. How does the structure of the story help build suspense? Cite at least two examples in your answer.

Name: _____ Class: _____

When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be

By John Keats
1848

John Keats (1795-1821) was an English Romantic poet, whose reputation grew after his death. Likewise, this poem, though written in 1818, was first published posthumously in 1848. It is a sonnet written in iambic pentameter, with three quatrains and a couplet. As you read, take notes on the poem's theme and how the structure contributes to the poem's overall meaning.

- [1] When I have fears that I may cease to be
Before my pen has gleaned¹ my teeming brain,
Before high-pilèd² books, in charactery,³
Hold like rich garner⁴ the full ripened grain;
- [5] When I behold, upon the night's starred face,
Huge cloudy symbols of a high romance,
And think that I may never live to trace
Their shadows with the magic hand of chance;
And when I feel, fair creature of an hour,
- [10] That I shall never look upon thee more,
Never have relish in the faery power
Of unreflecting love—then on the shore
Of the wide world I stand alone, and think
Till love and fame to nothingness do sink.



"John Keats" is in the public domain.

When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be by John Keats is in the public domain.

1. **Glean (verb):** to gather information or material piece by piece
2. Here, the accent above the e is called a "grave accent" and is used to signify that the poet intends for the vowel to be pronounced, so as to maintain a certain meter.
3. **Charactery (noun):** an expression of thought through symbols or characters
4. Storage

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best describes a theme of the poem? [RL.2]
- A. Lost love
 - B. Fear of the unknown
 - C. Never achieving one's desires
 - D. Brevity of life

2. PART B: Cite evidence from the text to support your answer to Part A. [RL.1]

3. What does the term "faery power" most likely mean in line 11? [RL.4]
- A. Enchantment
 - B. A magical, elusive force
 - C. Make-believe ideas
 - D. Just and gentle forces

4. Which of the following statements best describes how the structure reflects the poem? [RL.5]
- A. The end rhyme and meter contribute a lyricism to the poem, creating a humorous and amused tone.
 - B. The first three quatrains reflect the speaker's three greatest fears in life, and the final couplet reveals the speaker's belief that he will ultimately find relief from these fears in death.
 - C. The sonnet form reflects the Romantic ideals of sensual imagery and love.
 - D. The first three quatrains reflect the speaker's desires in life, and the final couplet represents the "turn" in the poem in which the speaker admits the inevitability of his ultimate failure.

5. Which of the following statements best describes the conclusion Keats makes? [RL.3]
- A. He concludes that all effort is for naught.
 - B. He concludes that everything will fade in death anyway.
 - C. His conclusion is that these fears make him an island unto himself.
 - D. He concludes that his worries over love and fame are essentially without worth.

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. Why do we feel the need to accomplish things or create a legacy before we die?
2. What is Keat's definition of success? Is this how you would define success?
3. Keats lived much of his life in obscurity; his work was published only four years before his death, and initial critical response was not generally well received. But by the end of the 19th century, he had become one of the most beloved of all English poets. Was Keat's assessment of his own fate accurate? Why or why not?
4. How do people face death? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.