

Entrance Ticket: Unit 1, Lesson 2

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: As you enter class, read the learning targets. Then read this excerpt from President Kennedy’s speech at Rice University in 1962.

Notice that as the reader read through the text, they added notes in the margin (the space to the left of the text). Based on the text and the notes, answer the questions below.

“There is no strife, no prejudice, no national conflict in outer space as yet. Its hazards are hostile to us all. Its conquest deserves the best of all mankind, and its opportunity for peaceful cooperation may never come again. But why, some say, the moon? Why choose this as our goal? And they may well ask why climb the highest mountain? Why, 35 years ago, fly the Atlantic? . . .

We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.

It is for these reasons that I regard the decision last year to shift our efforts in space from low to high gear as among the most important decisions that will be made during my incumbency in the office of the Presidency.”

Context: said during the Cold War, Kennedy wants to work together internationally

I've heard this before. Famous line?

Seems to be the central idea

Phrase conveys a sense of urgency

What does this word mean?

What do you notice about the notes in the margin? To what do the notes call attention?

Why might the reader have added these notes as they read?

Source: Kennedy, John F. “Address at Rice University, Houston, Texas, 12 September 1962.” *John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum*. Web. Public domain.

Text: “The Space Race”

Name: _____ Date: _____

by Hannah Pang

1. In the late 1950s, the United States and the Soviet Union became very competitive, and a space race began . . . Each wanted to be the first to put a man on the Moon. This was all going on during the time of the Cold War, when political relations between the United States and the Soviet Union were already difficult.
2. At first, Russia appeared to be winning the space race when it launched Sputnik 1 on October 4, 1957. This aluminum sphere with a radio transmitter was the first man-made satellite to orbit Earth! It made America extremely anxious: if Russia could launch objects into Earth’s orbit, then that meant it might also be capable of firing a bomb across the ocean!
3. When the United States tried to launch its first satellite into Earth’s orbit on December 6, 1957, its Vanguard TV3 rocket exploded on the launch pad. Luckily, Wernher von Braun saved the day when his modified Jupiter-C rocket, Juno I, successfully launched America’s Explorer 1 satellite into orbit on January 31, 1958.
4. Not long after Russia had launched Sputnik 1, the U.S. government created an agency for space exploration in 1958. This agency was called the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
5. Meanwhile, both countries were training their astronauts and developing their space technology. Then, on May 25, 1961, American President John F. Kennedy made a statement: by 1970, the United States would put astronauts into space and on the Moon. Sadly, Kennedy never lived to see his dream become a reality, as he was assassinated in November 1963.
6. “First, I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth. No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind, or more important for the long-range exploration of space; and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish.” — President John F. Kennedy (statement to U.S. Congress, May 25, 1961)

Source: Pang, Hannah. *The Moon* (978-1944530242). 360 Degrees, an imprint of Tiger Tales, 2019. Used by permission.

Text: John F. Kennedy's Speech Excerpt

Special Message to the Congress on Urgent National Needs

by President John F. Kennedy on May 25, 1961

1. Finally, if we are to win the battle that is now going on around the world between freedom and tyranny, the dramatic achievements in space which occurred in recent weeks should have made clear to us all, as did the Sputnik in 1957, the impact of this adventure on the minds of men everywhere, who are attempting to make a determination of which road they should take. Since early in my term, our efforts in space have been under review. With the advice of the Vice President, who is Chairman of the National Space Council, we have examined where we are strong and where we are not, where we may succeed and where we may not. Now it is time to take longer strides—time for a great new American enterprise—time for this nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement, which in many ways may hold the key to our future on earth.
2. I believe we possess all the resources and talents necessary. But the facts of the matter are that we have never made the national decisions or marshaled the national resources required for such leadership. We have never specified long-range goals on an urgent time schedule, or managed our resources and our time so as to ensure their fulfillment.
3. Recognizing the head start obtained by the Soviets with their large rocket engines, which gives them many months of lead-time, and recognizing the likelihood that they will exploit this lead for some time to come in still more impressive successes, we nevertheless are required to make new efforts on our own. For while we cannot guarantee that we shall one day be first, we can guarantee that any failure to make this effort will make us last. We take an additional risk by making it in full view of the world, but as shown by the feat of astronaut Shepard, this very risk enhances our stature when we are successful. But this is not merely a race. Space is open to us now; and our eagerness to share its meaning is not governed by the efforts of others. We go into space because whatever mankind must undertake, free men must fully share . . .

4. It is a most important decision that we make as a nation. But all of you have lived through the last four years and have seen the significance of space and the adventures in space, and no one can predict with certainty what the ultimate meaning will be of mastery of space.
5. I believe we should go to the moon. But I think every citizen of this country as well as the Members of the Congress should consider the matter carefully in making their judgment, to which we have given attention over many weeks and months, because it is a heavy burden, and there is no sense in agreeing or desiring that the United States take an affirmative position in outer space, unless we are prepared to do the work and bear the burdens to make it successful. If we are not, we should decide today and this year.
6. This decision demands a major national commitment of scientific and technical manpower, material and facilities, and the possibility of their diversion from other important activities where they are already thinly spread. It means a degree of dedication, organization and discipline which have not always characterized our research and development efforts. It means we cannot afford undue work stoppages, inflated costs of material or talent, wasteful interagency rivalries, or a high turnover of key personnel.
7. New objectives and new money cannot solve these problems. They could in fact, aggravate them further—unless every scientist, every engineer, every serviceman, every technician, contractor, and civil servant gives his personal pledge that this nation will move forward, with the full speed of freedom, in the exciting adventure of space.

Source: Kennedy, John F. “Excerpt from the ‘Special Message to the Congress on Urgent National Needs,’ Delivered in Person before a Joint Session of Congress May 25, 1961.” *NASA*. Web. Public domain.

Glossary

- affirmative** (adjective): agreeing with a statement
- aggravate** (verb): to make something worse, more serious, or more severe
- enterprise** (noun): a project or activity that involves many people and that is often difficult
- exploit** (verb): to take advantage of something
- manpower** (noun): the number of people who are available to work
- pledge** (noun): a serious promise or agreement
- tyranny** (noun): cruel and unfair treatment by people with power over others

Analyze Point of View: President Kennedy’s Speech Note-Catcher

Directions: Listen to the excerpt from President John F. Kennedy’s “Special Message to the Congress on Urgent National Needs” delivered on May 1961. Then, reread the text and respond to the questions with details from the speech.

1. What are the key ideas in the excerpt?

2. What point of view toward space travel is being conveyed in the speech excerpt? What details does Kennedy include to support his point of view?

3. Choose a word with a strong connotation. Explain how the word’s connotation reveals the speaker’s point of view.
