



# Interacting with the TEXT

## A Close Reading Activity

When you are in college or the workplace, you will most likely own your books and documents. You should take advantage of this by taking notes directly on the text.

**Directions:** As you read, use the suggested highlighter color or symbol (if you don't have highlighters) to identify the important elements of the "Address." For each element you identify, answer the accompanying question in the margin of the text. As with any challenging text, you should plan on reading it more than once in order to fully comprehend the material.

**Yellow or question mark** — for any words or ideas that you don't understand.

- What is your most educated guess about the meaning of the word or phrase? (Hint: Try using context clues).

**Green or underline** — for key ideas that you do understand.

- Rephrase the idea in your own words. Based on this key idea, what inference (conclusion based on evidence from the text) can you make about Lincoln's purpose and point of view?

**Blue or circle** — for words that have connotations (ideas or feelings) beyond their literal definition. Look for words that stand in opposition to each other (like black and white).

- What deeper meaning or feeling does the word (or oppositional words) evoke? What is the impact of these connotations on Lincoln's message and tone?

**Pink or squiggly line** — for any of the following stylistic devices that Lincoln uses in the "Address."

**Repetition:** using a word, phrase, or sentence more than once in a short passage

**Parallelism:** using a similar grammatical structure in a series of related words, phrases, or sentences

**Alliteration:** repeating the initial consonant sound in two or more words that are close together in a text

**Personification:** giving human attributes to inanimate objects or abstract ideas

- What device is Lincoln using? What is the impact of this stylistic device on Lincoln's message and tone?

the  
Gettysburg  
address



## Delivered in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania November 19, 1863...

**F**our 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. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

*A. Lincoln*