

President Abraham Lincoln's Speech The Gettysburg Address, 1863		
<p>Four <u>score</u> and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, <u>conceived</u> in Liberty, and <u>dedicated</u> to the <u>proposition</u> that all men are created equal.</p> <p>Now we are <u>engaged</u> 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.</p> <p>But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not <u>consecrate</u> —we can not <u>hallow</u>—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far</p>	<p>score</p> <p>conceived</p> <p>dedicated</p> <p>engaged</p> <p>consecrate</p> <p>hallow</p>	<p>What does the word "proposition" mean?</p> <p>What assumptions does Lincoln make about the nation in this address?</p> <p>What was the new nation conceived in and what proposition was it dedicated to?</p> <p>What is the point of including the phrase "any nation so conceived and so dedicated"?</p> <p>What are the assembled people doing at Gettysburg?</p> <p>What is the effect when Lincoln says "But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate---we can not consecrate---we can not hallow---this ground."</p>

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.

detract

devotion

perish

Additional Questions:

Look carefully at Lincoln's speech. Which verb does he use the most (sometime he uses it in the past tense). What does it mean the first two times Lincoln uses it, and what other verb is closely linked to it those first two times it appears? How is it used the next two times? What is unique about the way Lincoln uses it the final two times?

Lincoln says "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here." Obviously, since this is a famous and well-remembered speech, what parts of the speech do you think made it memorable? What phrases in the speech make it memorable for you?

Lincoln makes reference to another famous document. Where in the text does he do that and what document does he make reference to?

What is Lincoln's opinion about the Union separating or staying together? What sentences or phrases from the speech express his point of view?