



Social Studies Exemplary Text Student Handout

I say to the House as I said to ministers who have joined this government, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many months of struggle and suffering.

You ask, what is our policy? I say it is to wage war by land, sea, and air. War with all our might and with all the strength God has given us, and to wage war against a monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy.

You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word. It is victory. Victory at all costs - Victory in spite of all terrors - Victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival.

I take up my task in buoyancy and hope. I feel sure that our cause will not be suffered to fail among men. I feel entitled at this juncture, at this time, to claim the aid of all and to say, "Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength."

Churchill, Winston. "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat: Address to Parliament on May 13th, 1940."

Edited by William Safire. (2004). "Winston Churchill Braces Britons to Their Task." *Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches in History, 3rd Edition*. New York: W. W. Norton.

This is an example of exemplary text found in *Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects: Appendix B Text Exemplars and Sample Performance Tasks*. Retrieved from http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf

Social Studies Exemplary Text Teacher Resource

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EFL 4
Word Count 198

Teacher introduces the text with minimal commentary and students read it independently. Teacher then reads passage aloud. Give a brief definition to words students would likely not be able to define from context (underlined in text). Teacher guides the students through a series of text-dependent questions. Complete the performance task as a cumulative evaluation of the close-reading.

Text-Dependent Questions

1. Who is Churchill addressing in this speech? Why?
2. Why does Churchill say "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat"?
3. What is he bracing the Britons for? Does he think it will end well?
4. In the second paragraph, Churchill states "wage war" twice. What does it mean to "wage war"? Why does he repeat the phrase twice? How does the phrase "wage war" differ from "go to war" or "to fight"?
5. What words and/or phrases does Churchill use to describe the enemy in paragraphs 1 and 2? From these words and phrases, what can you infer about the enemy?
6. What is the meaning of the word "aim" in paragraph 3? How does this "aim" connect to the "policy" defined in paragraph 2?
7. Why does the speaker use the word buoyancy? Is it clear what it means in this context?
8. Do you think that Churchill is trying to be more optimistic, or realistic in his speech to the British people? Explain using textual examples.

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9. What is the main argument in Churchill's "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat?"
10. List specific words Churchill uses to support his argument. How do these words impact the meaning and tone of the text?
11. Churchill uses text structure to create shifts in tone. Explain where and how many times Churchill does this in the text.

Performance Tasks for Informational Texts

Students trace the line of argument in Winston Churchill's *Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat* address to Parliament and evaluate his specific claims and opinions in the text, distinguishing which claims are supported by facts, reasons, and evidence, and which are not. [RI.6.8]