

Week 3

Overview:

This week you will read an excerpt from Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech and connect it to the newspaper article you read last week. You will also watch a video of King delivering his speech and then do some close reading and analysis of his speech. One focus this week will be analyzing figurative language, a standard which you will extend by engaging in a short research activity using song lyrics.

Assignments:

- 1. Read **Excerpt 2: From "I Have a Dream," by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**
- 2. Discuss the meanings of the words "prose," "poetry," "podium" and "pulpit." Write a one-paragraph answer to question #2.
- 3. Watch the video of the speech. Watch from the beginning to 6:15 to view the portion from Excerpt 2. Then fast forward to the famous part of the speech at 12:12 and watch to the end:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l47Y6VHc3Ms>
- 4. Re-read **Excerpt 2: From "I Have a Dream," by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**
- 5. Write a one-paragraph answer to questions #4 & #5
- 6. **Comparing Two or More Texts**
- 7. **Illustrating Figurative Language**
- 8. Journal Entry: Have we achieved Dr. King's dream 50 years later? What progress do you think this country has

made since the March on Washington with regard to civil rights? What progress do we still need to make? Cite evidence to support your opinion.

9. **Figurative Language in Song Lyrics**

Excerpt 2: From “I Have a Dream,” by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But 100 years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men — yes, black men as well as white men — would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check that has come back marked “insufficient funds.”

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity

of this nation. And so we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children....

For Writing or Discussion

1. Michiko Kakutani asks: "Why does Dr. King's 'Dream' speech exert such a potent hold on people around the world and across the generations?" What answer does she provide? What is the most powerful evidence she uses to back up her analysis?
2. Ms. Kakutani explains that "with his improvised riff, Dr. King took a leap into history, jumping from prose to poetry, from the podium to the pulpit." What does she mean by that description?
3. After reading, listening or watching Dr. King's "Dream" speech, describe your reaction. What do you find powerful or moving in the speech? Do you have a favorite line or phrase? Explain.
4. How does Dr. King use figurative language and other poetic and oratorical devices, such as repetition and theme, to make his speech more powerful?
5. What historical and biblical allusions do you recognize within the speech? Which allusions do you find most compelling, and why?
6. Have we achieved Dr. King's dream 50 years later? What progress do you think this country has made since the March on Washington with regard to civil rights? What progress do we still need to make? Cite evidence to support your opinion.

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPARING TWO OR MORE TEXTS

Directions: Use the questions below to help you think about the relationship between two or more texts of any kind. Use the back of the sheet if you need more room to write.

Content: In your own words, what is each text saying?

Text 1:	Text 2:

Similarities: How are these texts similar, connected or related? How are they alike, whether in terms of subject matter, theme, purpose, tone, etc.? What specific lines and details echo each other or connect?

Differences: How are the two different—again, in terms of subject matter, theme, purpose, tone or anything else? Where do they “disagree”?

The Two Texts Together: How does reading the two together make you see or understand things you might not if you read them separately? If the creators or subjects of these texts were to have a conversation, what is one thing they might say to each other?

Questions and Reactions: What questions do these texts and their content raise for you? What reactions do you have to them, either individually or together?



Focus on Figurative Language Found in the Text

Writers use figurative language to communicate an idea that is not easily understood because of its abstract nature or complexity. It can be used to compare one idea to a second idea to make the first idea easier to visualize. Figurative language also is used to link two ideas, which helps the reader or audience to see a connection even if one does not actually exist. Writers of prose and poetry use figurative language to elicit emotion, help readers form mental images, and draw readers in.

Take a closer look at King's masterful use of figurative language in the excerpt of the speech. For each one tell:

- 1) The literal definition or understanding (what the words actually mean)
- 2) What the words mean in the context of the speech (how they add to what we visualize or understand)

Example from the Speech	Literal Definition/Understanding	Figurative Meaning in the Speech
<p>"One hundred years later, the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination."</p>		
<p>"Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood."</p>		
<p>Your choice:</p>		

Figurative Language in Song Lyrics

Similes and Metaphors in music lyrics are everywhere! Just listen...and READ.

A quick review of the most common types of
figurative language

Simile: a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared using the word "like" or "as"

Metaphor: a figure of speech that identifies something as being the same as an unrelated thing thus highlighting the similarities between the two

Hyperbole: extreme exaggeration to make a point

Personification: assigning the qualities of a person to something that isn't alive

Task One: Read the song lyrics to "The River". Find and label at least one example of the above types of figurative language in the song.

"The River" by Garth Brooks

You know a dream is like a river, ever changing as it flows.

And a dreamer's just a vessel that must follow where it goes.

Trying to learn from what's behind you and never knowing what's in store

makes each day a constant battle just to stay between the shores.

Chorus:

And I will sail my vessel 'til the river runs dry.
Like a bird upon the wind, these waters are my sky.
I'll never reach my destination if I never try,
So I will sail my vessel 'til the river runs dry.

Too many times we stand aside and let the water slip away.
To what we put off 'til tomorrow has now become today.
So don't you sit upon the shore and say you're satisfied.
Choose to chance the rapids and dare to dance the tides.

-Chorus-

There's bound to be rough waters, and I know I'll take some falls.

With the good Lord as my captain, I can make it through them all.

Task Two: Listen the artist singing the song. See if you notice more examples of figurative language and label them.

Try:

<http://www.veoh.com/watch/e1592234cHGpj98>

OR

<https://vimeo.com/84156760>

Task Three: Song and Poetry Assignment

* Songs may not contain profanity or inappropriate content!

1. Find your own song whose lyrics are rich in figurative language. Copy and paste the words to a favorite song.

Use Lyric Freak: <http://www.lyricsfreak.com/> OR

Metro Lyrics: <http://www.metrolyrics.com>

2. Label the examples of figurative language found in each song (see list from above, but may also include irony, symbols, and/or imagery).

3. Write a paragraph explaining the meaning of the song. Don't just repeat the song. Focus on how some of the word choices of the artist contribute to the figurative and/or symbolic meaning of the song.