

Guide to Comprehension Answers

Two Famous Speeches

1. What is Kennedy explaining? *The reasons for going to the moon*
2. Why do you think he repeats the phrase "We choose to go to the moon"? *This is the main point of his speech. Repeating the phrase helps to make it stand out/be memorable.*
3. Does this reason surprise you? *Yes/no* Why do you think he uses contrasts such as *easy* and *hard* in his speech? *The contrast makes it stand out. It is surprising. It seems like a bigger achievement.*
4. Who is Obama talking to? *America, the American people*
5. Is he really talking about an actual road? What is he describing with this image? *It is a metaphor. He is describing the next few years as a journey taken together with the American people.*
6. What affect does this alliteration (repeating the beginning sound) have and why does he use it? *The words block and brick stand out. He makes it sound like he is building something. (It sounds like a physical task which hard work but will achieve something solid).*
7. **Both speakers** say things *will* happen rather than *might* or *may* happen. Why do they use this modal verb in their speech? *They are talking about the future so can't be sure but use will as it sounds more certain. They sound confident that they will achieve their goals. It is more persuasive.*
8. Which speech do you think is most persuasive? Explain why, giving examples.
Any reasonable answer justified with examples from the text.

Three Famous Speeches

1. What phrase is repeated most in this speech? Why does he use repetition? *'we shall fight' – it makes it stand out/be memorable. It is the main point of the speech. To build up momentum – like a chant. To inspire those who will be fighting/will deal with hardship as a result of the fighting.*
2. Why do you think he uses this alliteration? *To make the words stand out. To make the link between God and his actions. To give his actions legitimacy.*
3. What difficulty does Churchill predict and how does he make it seem less of a problem? *Britain might be taken over by a foreign power and the people starve. He does not believe it will happen even 'for a moment'. The country would be rescued by the Empire/New World and British fleet.*
4. What is happening at the time of this speech? *Troops of soldiers are preparing to go into battle.*
5. Find an example of Elizabeth using contrast in her speech. *'to live and die', 'recreation and disport' 'midst and heat of the battle' 'a weak and feeble woman' 'heart and stomach of a king'* Why does she use it? *To make the words stand out. To challenge those who accuse her of playing or being weak. To emphasise her strength and resolve.*
6. What words to do with the human body does she use and why? *'blood', 'heart' 'stomach'* *The soldiers are about to risk their lives in battle – these are apt terms which everyone can relate to. The heart, blood and stomach are associated with courage and strength. Elizabeth wants to seem like a strong, brave leader. (Some children may identify 'arms'. Make links to the term 'armed' as in holding a weapon.)*
7. What simile does Phelps use to describe a borrowed book? *A book is like a house guest.*
How is this imagery effective? *There are expectations in the way we treat guests. We look after them. We are careful with them. We don't expect them to stay forever.*
8. What modal verbs does he use and how do they make him more persuasive? *'must' 'cannot' 'ought to'.* *He makes it seem that you are obliged to treat books carefully. It is not possible to damage them.*
9. How is Phelps' speech very different to the others? Why do you think that is? *It is calmer. The images are less dramatic. It seems less serious. The context and content of the speech is very different to the previous ones. This is about books. The previous were about life and death and during a time of war.*
10. Which speech do you think is the most persuasive? Explain why, giving examples. Any reasonable answer which gives examples to justify the choice.