

NAME:

DATE:

FDR's "First Inauguration Speech" Enrichment Activity

LITERARY ANALYSIS: Persuasive Speech & Rhetorical Devices

A persuasive speech is a speech that tries to convince listeners to think or act in a certain way. Persuasive speeches may appeal to reason or emotion or both. In order to engage the audience, speakers often include rhetorical devices, special patterns of words and ideas that create emphasis and stir emotion in the audience. Common rhetorical devices include the following:

- **Restatement:** expressing the same idea in different words to clarify and stress key points
- **Repetition:** expressing different ideas using the same words or images in order to reinforce concepts and unify the speech
- **Analogy:** drawing a comparison that shows a similarity between unlike things
- **Parallelism:** repeating a grammatical structure or arrangement of words to create a sense of rhythm and momentum

PART I.

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions with well-structured responses using textual evidence from the reading in support.

1. In his first paragraph, Roosevelt uses both the pronouns "them" and "we" in reference to his audience. When does he use these pronouns and what is the desired effect of using different pronouns at different places in the paragraph?

2. When identifying actions that he proposes to address the country's economic problems, Roosevelt repeats the phrase "it can be helped by" six times in the same paragraph. He finishes the paragraph by stating, "but it can never be helped by merely talking about it." What idea or belief is Roosevelt attempting to instill in the audience?

3. In the sentence beginning with the phrase, *"In the field of foreign policy,"* Roosevelt uses the word *"neighbor"* four times, and the word *"respect"* four times. Why did he repeat these words? How does Roosevelt employ or use the word *"neighbor"* in this sentence?

4. Roosevelt weaves multiple war-related terms and metaphors throughout this speech. What connection is Roosevelt trying to make for his audience by using these military terms and metaphors?

PART II. DIRECTIONS: Read the following excerpts from Roosevelt's "First Inaugural Address." Then, on the lines provided, answer the questions that follow.

1. "Small wonder that confidence languishes, for it thrives only on honesty, on honor, on the sacredness of obligations, on faithful protection, on unselfish performance. Without them it cannot live."

A. How does this passage exemplify parallelism? _____

B. How does Roosevelt use restatement in the passage? _____

2. "The money changers have fled from their high seats in the temple of our civilization. We may now restore that temple to the ancient truths."

A. How does this passage exemplify Repetition? _____
