Grade 7: Reading Benchmark

Comparative Reading

7.R.3.3 Compare and contrast how authors with differing perspectives address the same or related topics or themes.

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Benchmark Introduction



Benchmark:

Compare and contrast how the same theme(s) or topic(s) are treated by authors who think about them differently.

Definition of Comparative Reading

Comparative reading means to compare and contrast particular elements within two or more texts.

Definition of Perspective

Perspective is a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something.

Comparative Perspectives

Readers may compare how authors with different perspectives address similar topics or themes to...

- gain insight into these different perspectives.
- consider how a writer's perspective may be shaped by time period, culture, or circumstances.
- develop a broader understanding of each text.

Example of different authors' perspectives

Laurence Steinberg and **Sarah-Jayne Blakemore** are both neuroscientists, but they have different perspectives on the "average teenager" and their risk-taking behaviors based on studies of adolescent brains.

Example of different authors' perspectives

Steinberg's perspective: Evidence of the average growth patterns of teenage brains shows that it is useful to talk about the idea of an "average teenager" and their likely behaviors.

Example of different authors' perspectives

Blakemore's perspective: Evidence of the individual variation in growth patterns of teenage brains shows that it is not useful to talk about the idea of an "average teenager" and their likely behaviors.

Benchmark Skill Routine



How to compare authors' perspectives

Read closely, highlight, and annotate to explore how authors address a shared topic or theme.

How to compare authors' perspectives

Identify specific information (word choice, key details, descriptions, and conclusions) that suggests each author's perspective about the shared topic or theme.

How to compare authors' perspectives

Examine perspective.

Based on the information you found, determine each author's perspective toward the topic or theme.

How to compare authors' perspectives

Compare and contrast the perspective of each author toward the topic or theme.

Remember

1. Explore how authors address a shared topic or theme. Identify specific information that suggests each author's perspective about the topic or theme.
2. Examine perspective. Based on the information you found, determine each author's perspective toward the topic or theme.
3. Compare and contrast the perspective of each author toward the topic or theme.

Benchmark in Action: Example of how to compare authors' perspectives



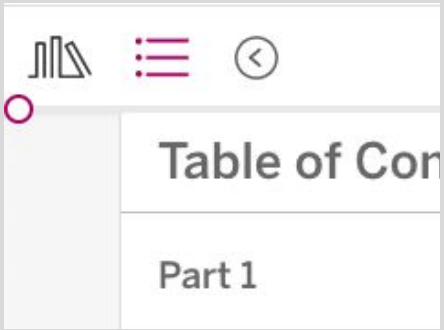
Get ready to read two passages. The first is in “Farewell Address” by Dwight D. Eisenhower.



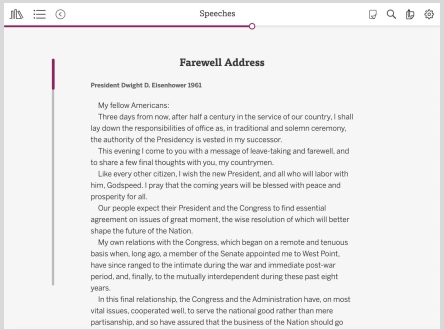
1. Open the Library app.



2. Type “Great Speeches from US History” into the search bar. Click on the title of the book to open it.



3. Click on the Table of Contents.
Find and click on “President Dwight D. Eisenhower 1961.”

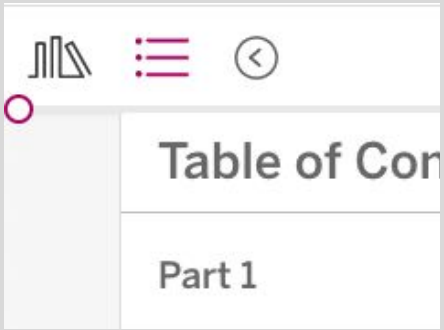


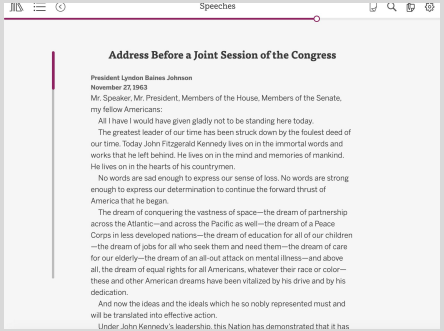
4. Read paragraph 12 in “Farewell Address.”

The second passage is in “Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress” by Lyndon B. Johnson.









1. Click the Library app again to open the Library in a second tab.
2. Type “Great Speeches from US History” into the search bar. Click on the title of the book to open it.
3. Click on the Table of Contents.
   Find and click on “President Lyndon Baines Johnson 1963.”
4. Read paragraphs 5 and 6 in “Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress.”

“Farewell Address”

Shared Topic or Theme: How America should progress toward its goals

Context for Passage 1: In January of 1961, days before the conclusion of his second term as president, Dwight Eisenhower delivered his farewell address to a nation he feared was blinded by its prosperity. He detailed a path forward for the country.

“Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress”

Shared Topic or Theme: How America should progress toward its goals

Context for Passage 2: Just five days after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, having been elevated from Vice President to the presidency, spoke before Congress. He suggested a path forward for the grieving country.

Read “Farewell Address,” paragraph 12.
Read “Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress,” paragraphs 5 and 6.

As you read, look for...

- word choice, descriptive details, key information, and conclusions that you can use to determine each author’s perspective.
- details you can use to compare and contrast each author’s perspective toward the topic or theme.

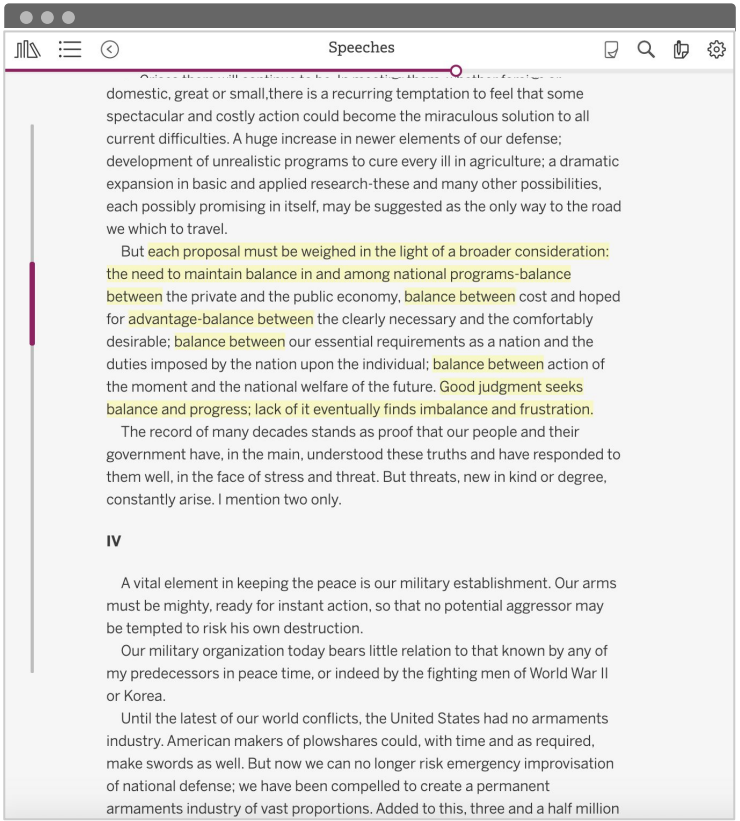
Practice Step 1

Read closely, highlight, and annotate to explore how authors address a shared topic or theme.

Practice Step 1

Identify specific information (word choice, key details, descriptions, and conclusions) that suggests each author’s perspective about the shared topic or theme.

Practice Step 1, Passage 1: “Farewell Address”



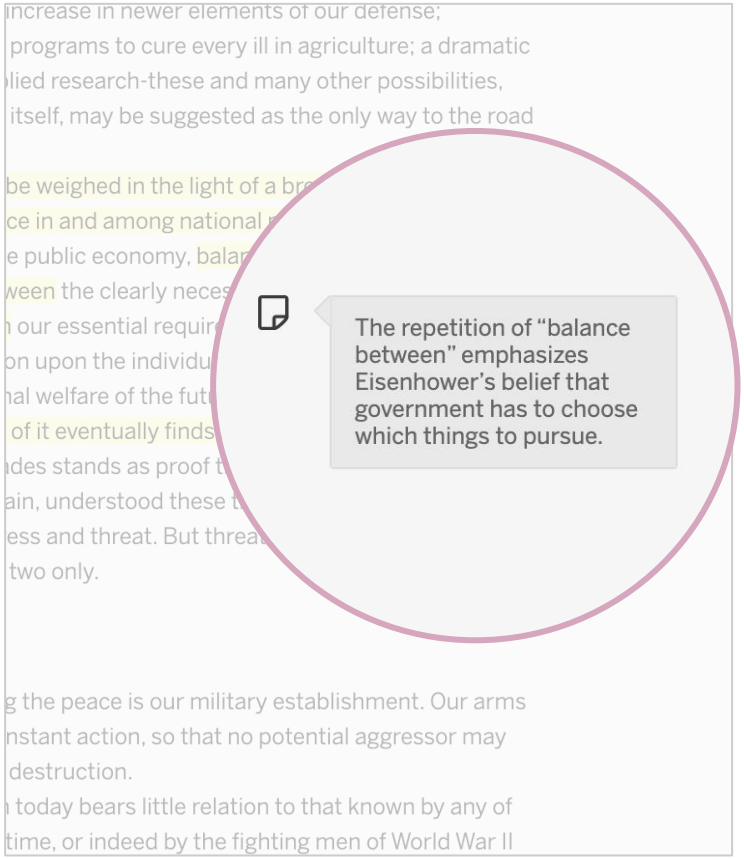
Highlight and annotate specific details that suggest the author’s perspective.

“each proposal must be weighed in the light of a broader consideration: the need to maintain balance in and among national programs”

“balance between” repeated

“Good judgment seeks balance and progress; lack of it eventually finds imbalance and frustration.”

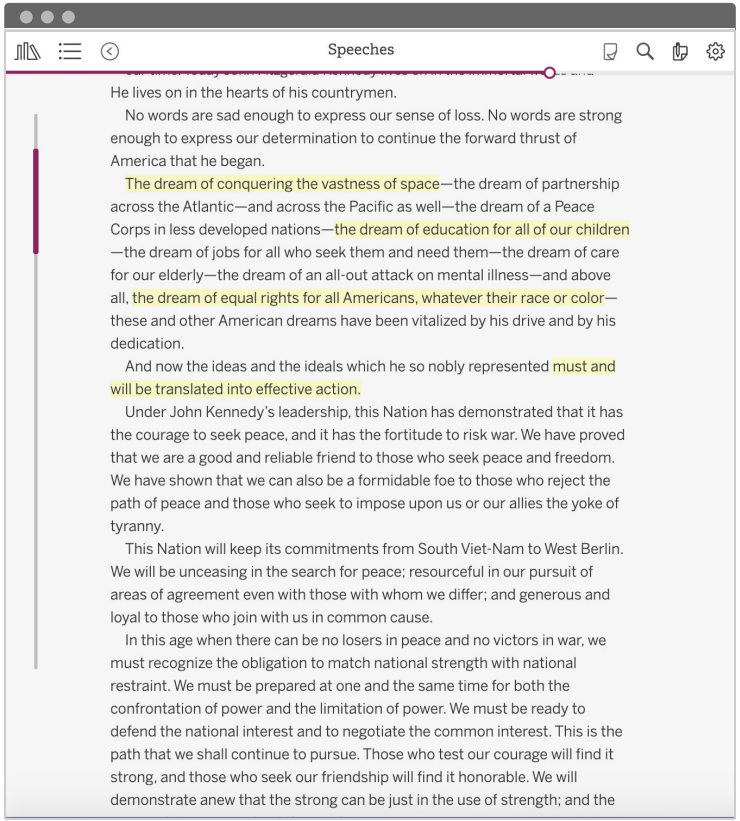
Practice Step 1, Passage 1: “Farewell Address”



Annotate a highlight by summarizing how a word or phrase is used.

The repetition of “balance between” emphasizes Eisenhower’s belief that government has to choose which things to pursue.

Practice Step 1, Passage 2: “Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress”



Highlight and annotate specific details that suggest the author’s perspective.

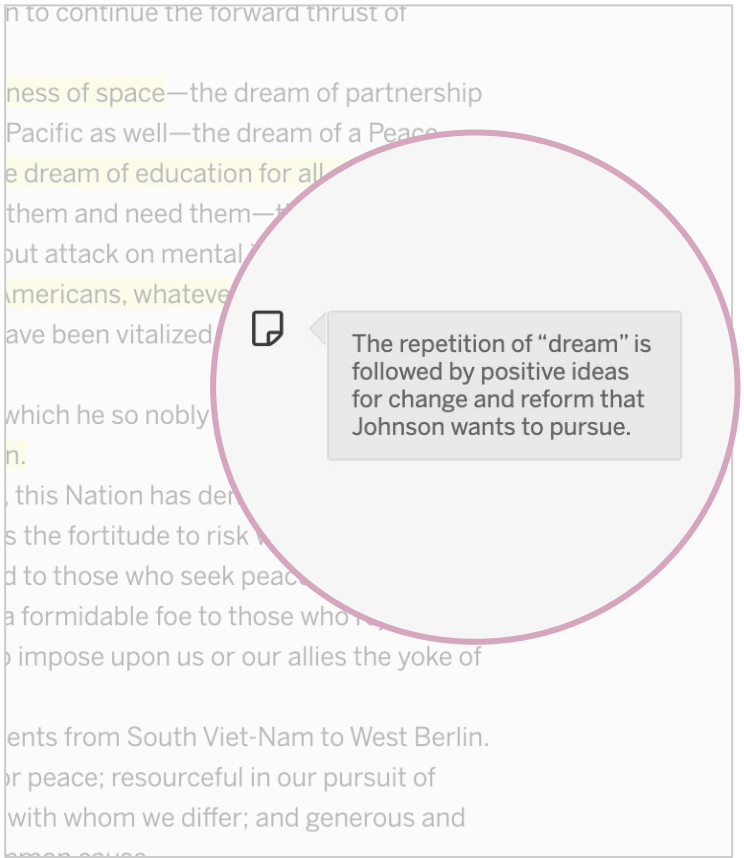
“The dream of conquering the vastness of space”

“the dream of education for all of our children”

“the dream of equal rights for all Americans, whatever their race or color”

“must and will be translated into effective action”

Practice Step 1, Passage 2: “Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress”



Annotate a highlight by summarizing how a word or phrase is used.

The repetition of “dream” is followed by positive ideas for change and reform that Johnson wants to pursue.

Practice Step 2

Examine perspective.

Based on the information you found, determine each author’s perspective toward the topic or theme.

Practice Step 2 Examples:

- Eisenhower's perspective is pragmatic, or practical. He is focused on a realistic vision of the future and the importance of deliberate steps forward.

- Johnson's perspective is idealistic. He is focused on a vision of America's future that is based on taking bold steps.

Practice Step 3

Compare and contrast the perspective
of each author toward the topic or theme.

Practice Step 3 Example:

Both men are deeply committed to a vision of the United States based on peace, security, liberty, and dignity for all citizens. However, Johnson's language communicates a perspective of idealism, while Eisenhower's language communicates a perspective of pragmatism.

Remember

1. Explore how authors address a shared topic or theme. Identify specific information that suggests each author's perspective about the topic or theme.
2. Examine perspective. Based on the information you found, determine each author's perspective toward the topic or theme.
3. Compare and contrast the perspective of each author toward the topic or theme.

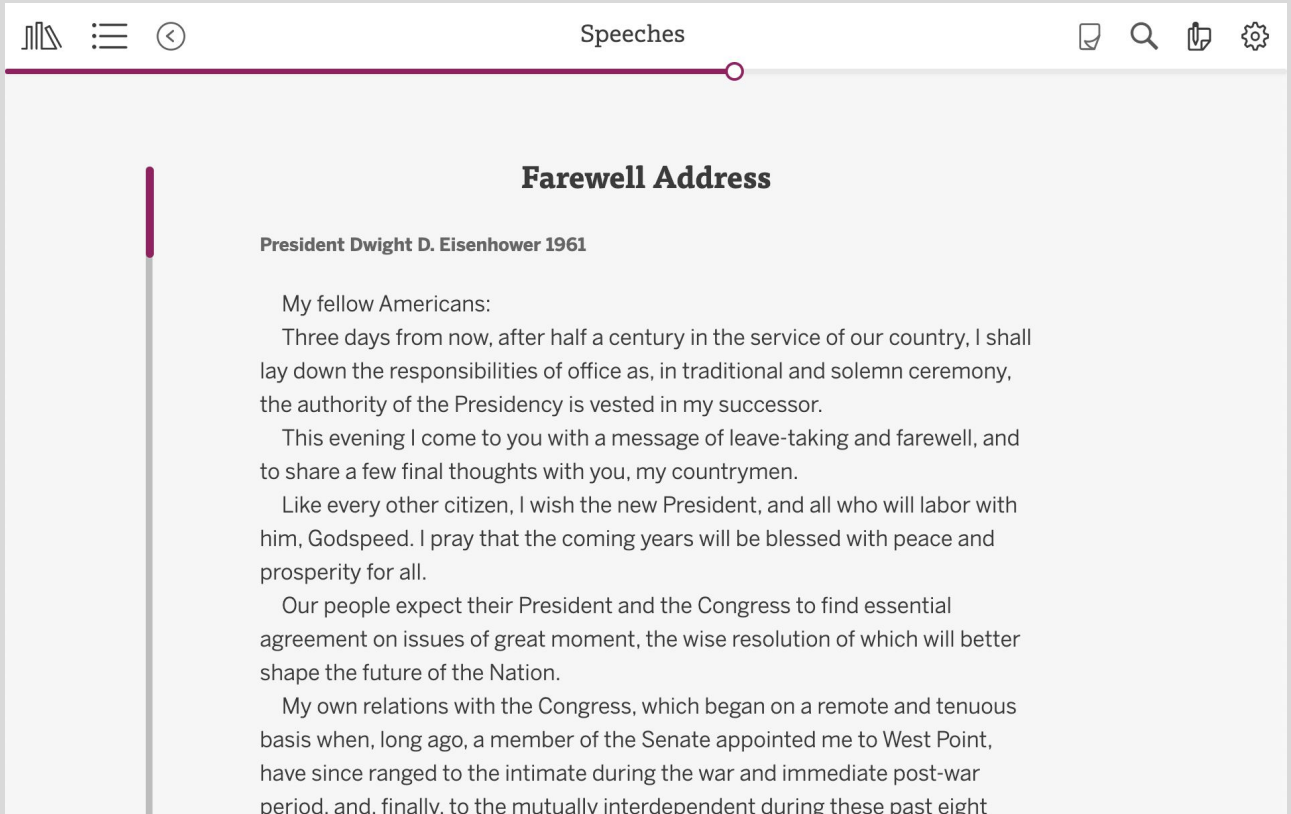
Independent Practice



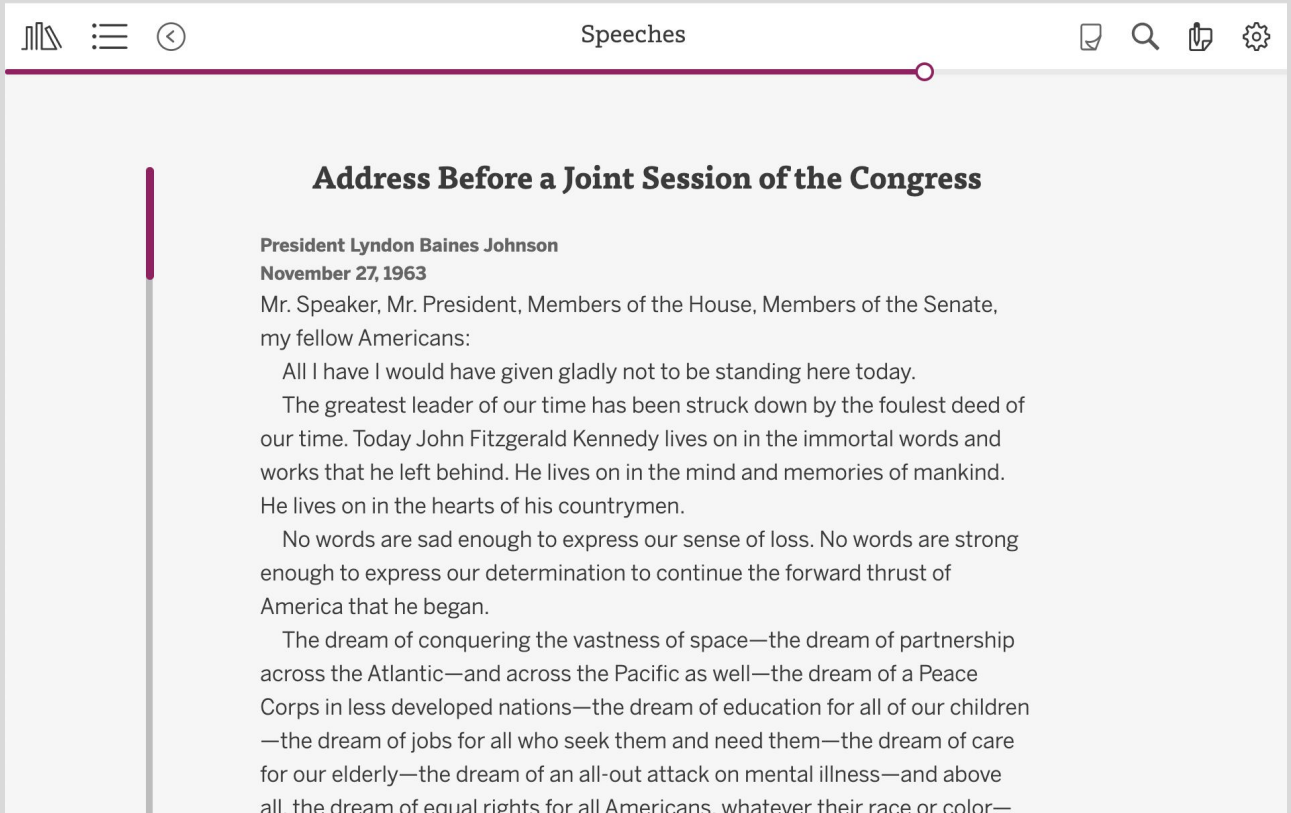
Benchmark:

Compare and contrast how the same theme(s) or topic(s) are treated by authors who think about them differently.

Now read paragraphs 27–29 in “Farewell Address.”



Now read paragraphs 7 and 9 in “Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress.”



“Farewell Address”

Shared Topic: Global relationships and war

Context for Passage 3: In his address, Eisenhower acknowledged the rise of globalization and referenced his own experiences with war to call on nations to avoid armed conflict.

“Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress”

Shared Topic: Global relationships and war

Context for Passage 4: Amid the rising tensions of the Cold War, Johnson emphasized the responsibility of the United States to defend justice and freedom at any cost.

Practice comparative reading with author's perspectives

Step 1
Explore how authors address a shared topic or theme. Identify specific information that suggests each author's perspective about the topic or theme.

Step 2
Examine perspective. Based on the information you found, determine each author's perspective toward the topic or theme.

Step 3
Compare and contrast the perspective of each author toward the topic or theme.

Check for Understanding



Share and Discuss

1. What are three or four specific details (word choice, descriptive details, and conclusions) in each passage that suggest each author’s perspective?

Share and Discuss

2. Based on the key information you found, what is each author’s perspective toward the topic?

Share and Discuss

3. Compare and contrast each author’s perspective toward the topic or theme.