

UNIT 4

Close Reading

Theme:
INTEGRITY

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- I can participate in a discussion about a text.
- I can quote from a text when explaining what the text says and what I learn from the text.
- I can find the main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported.
- I can decide the meaning of important words in a text.

MATERIALS

- Copy of text for each student
- Copy of text for teacher

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ON INTEGRITY

This text-based discussion lesson is designed to:

- Provide students with regular **practice** with complex text and academic vocabulary
- Provide students with the opportunity to **hear text read** by a fluent reader (When students follow along, this supports their developing fluency)
- Provide students with the opportunity to engage in collaborative, text-based **conversations** about important ideas and textual evidence
- Provide students with off-game opportunities to **reflect** on important themes that may influence their in-game decision making

The lesson is designed so that while it contains challenge, the student experience is supportive. Design elements such as the teacher read aloud, word work and group discussions will support a range of students and are appropriate to the summer school setting.

AGENDA

Each discussion has 5 parts:

- Part 1: Bridge from the Game Environment
- Part 2: Word work
- Part 3: Small group discussion
- Part 4: Whole group share
- Part 5: Bridge to the Game

You know your students best. Use your knowledge of your students to adapt the suggested facilitation to meet their needs and learning environment. For example, you may re-read sections of the text during the discussion, work with a group that needs extra support, extend the time for the lesson, or preview important vocabulary.

TEXT ANALYSIS LESSONS (TIME: 45 MINUTES)

PART 1: BRIDGE FROM THE GAME ENVIRONMENT (5 minutes)

- **Introduce the reading. Say:** *Things haven't calmed down at the Center. Theft and rumors are the latest emergencies to strike. These situations show the importance of keeping your integrity – staying true to your values – even when things are difficult or confusing. To think more about integrity in difficult times we're going to read and discuss a bit of a speech that former president George W. Bush gave to the entire country after the beginning*

of the 2008 financial crisis. George Bush uses lots of advanced vocabulary in his speech, so we're going to review some words that will help you understand better when we read.

PART 2: WORD WORK (10 minutes)

Review key vocabulary words by directing students' attention to the glossary at the bottom of the reading, pronouncing each word aloud, reviewing the definition, and using each word in context.

- **incur:** to cause to have or experience (something unpleasant or unwanted) (*When you turn in books late you incur library fines.*)
- **excesses:** behavior that is considered wrong or too much because it goes beyond what is usual, normal, or proper (*They are so used to excesses in the way they live, that it would be hard them to spend less money.*)
- **mortgages:** a legal agreement in which a person borrows money to buy property (such as a house) and pays back the money over a period of years (*When people buy a house they make a mortgage payment each month instead of rent.*)
- **influx:** the arrival or inward flow of a large amount of something (such as money) (*On payday, people experience an influx of money.*)
- **undermine:** to make something weaker or less effective usually, in a secret or gradual way (*Sometimes students try to undermine the teacher by refusing to participate.*)
- **instability:** likely to change (*The teenage years are a time of great instability.*)
- **recession:** withdrawal from the normal position (*When countries go through a recession, many people are at risk of losing their jobs and savings.*)

PART 3: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (20 minutes)

- **The teacher reads the selection aloud.** Read the selection aloud to students as they follow along. Listening to a fluent reader read a text aloud while following along is one way to help readers to develop reading fluency. Stop at the designated points and ask students to discuss the posed questions in small groups. The teacher should circulate and listen to student comments.

Note that students may need to synthesize information across multiple paragraphs to respond to the questions.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.1

Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.2

Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.4

Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.C

Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.D

Review the key ideas expressed and draw conclusions in light of information and knowledge gained from the discussions.

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- **Assign each group a paragraph.**
 - **After Paragraph 5:** What is the emergency situation President Bush is speaking to the nation about? Why is President Bush giving this speech?
 - **After Paragraph 12:** What are some of the factors that brought the financial system to a grinding halt?
 - **After Paragraph 18:** What choice did the President face? Why did the President choose to act against his beliefs?

PART 4: WHOLE GROUP SHARE (10 MINUTES)

After Paragraph 18, ask: *After considering other perspectives, President Bush decided to act against what he would usually do and work with Congress to save some of the banks. Do you think the President acted with integrity? Why or why not?*

Address to the Nation on the Financial Crisis (Excerpted)

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

September 24, 2008

Washington, D.C.

1. Good evening. This is an extraordinary period for America's economy.
2. Over the past few weeks, many Americans have felt anxiety about their finances and their future. I understand their worry and their frustration.
3. We've seen triple-digit swings in the stock market. Major financial institutions have teetered on the edge of collapse, and some have failed. We're in the midst of a serious financial crisis, and the federal government is responding with decisive action.
4. We boosted confidence in money market mutual funds and acted to prevent major investors from intentionally driving down stocks for their own personal gain. Most importantly, my administration is working with Congress to address the root cause behind much of the instability in our markets.
5. I know many Americans have questions tonight: How did we reach this point in our economy? How will the solution I propose work? And what does this mean for your financial future? These are good questions, and they deserve clear answers.
6. First, how did our economy reach this point? Well, most economists agree that the problems we're witnessing today developed over a long period of time. For more than a decade, a massive amount of money flowed into the United States from investors abroad because our country is an attractive and secure place to do business.
7. This large influx of money to U.S. banks and financial institutions, along with low interest rates, made it easier for Americans to get credit. These developments allowed more families to borrow money for cars, and homes, and college tuition, some for the first time. They allowed more entrepreneurs to get loans to start new businesses and create jobs.
8. Unfortunately, there were also some serious negative consequences, particularly in the housing market. Easy credit, combined with the faulty assumption that home values would continue to rise, led to excesses and bad decisions.
9. Many mortgage lenders approved loans for borrowers without carefully examining their ability to pay. Many borrowers took out loans larger than they could afford, assuming that they could sell or refinance their homes at a higher price later on.
10. Optimism about housing values also led to a boom in home construction. Eventually, the number of new houses exceeded the number of people willing to buy them. And with supply exceeding demand, housing prices fell, and this created a problem.
11. The decline in the housing market set off a domino effect across our economy. When home values declined, borrowers defaulted on their mortgages, and investors holding mortgage-backed securities began to incur serious losses.
12. Other banks found themselves in severe financial trouble. These banks began holding on to their money, and lending dried up, and the gears of the American financial system began grinding to a halt.
13. With the situation becoming more precarious by the day, I faced a choice, to step in with dramatic government action or to stand back and allow the irresponsible actions of some to undermine the financial security of all.
14. I'm a strong believer in free enterprise, so my natural instinct is to oppose government intervention. I believe companies that make bad decisions should be allowed to go out of business. Under normal circumstances, I would have followed this course. But these are not normal circumstances. The market is not

READABILITY MEASURES: Reading Maturity: 9.8 • Flesh-Kincaid 9.2

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

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functioning properly. There has been a widespread loss of confidence, and major sectors of America's financial system are at risk of shutting down.

More banks could fail, including some in your community. The stock market would drop even more, which would reduce the value of your retirement account. The value of your home could plummet. Foreclosures would rise dramatically. 15.

And if you own a business or a farm, you would find it harder and more expensive to get credit. More businesses would close their doors, and millions of Americans could lose their jobs. 16.

Even if you have good credit history, it would be more difficult for you to get the loans you need to buy a car or send your children to college. And, ultimately, our country could experience a long and painful recession. 17.

Fellow citizens, we must not let this happen. I appreciate the work of leaders from both parties in both houses of Congress to address this problem and to make improvements to the proposal my administration sent to them. ❖ 18.

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