

**Questions for Excerpt from Acceptance Speech**

1. What parallel did Nixon draw between the issues Abraham Lincoln faced and those that the nation was now facing?

**Nixon drew a parallel between Lincoln's freeing enslaved people and his administration's pledging to free the world from communism.**

2. Why do you think Nixon referred to the Cold War as a race?

**For Nixon, the Cold War was something to be won. It was not enough to contain communism; democracy had to win worldwide.**

3. What did Nixon say was the only answer for victory over communism?

**Nixon argued that communism had a goal of taking over the world, so the only way to "contain" communism was to rid the world of it.**

4. What ideals of the American Revolution do you think Nixon was referencing in the final paragraph of this excerpt?

**Student must make a claim and support it with evidence from the text. Answers should pertain to liberty as a revolutionary tenet and what people might be willing to do to protect it.**

**Questions for Excerpt from Inaugural Address**

1. What was Kennedy referring to when he warned adversaries to pursue peace “before the dark powers of destruction unleashed by science engulf all humanity...”?

**The atomic bomb could potentially destroy the earth. He warned that nations should find a way to make peace before destroying each other.**

2. Kennedy’s speech focused on a few specific themes. Identify two of these themes and cite where and how he addressed them in his speech.

**Possible themes to discuss: balancing military strength with diplomacy, civility and compromise, duty and power, the good and bad of scientific discovery, cooperation.**

3. According to Kennedy, why should both groups formulate “serious and precise proposals for the inspection and control of arms”?

**Kennedy believed there should be international oversight over weapons that had the potential to destroy the planet.**

4. How does this excerpt reflect Kennedy’s optimistic outlook on the possibility of easing the tensions of the Cold War?

**Kennedy talked about negatives as challenges to overcome, focusing on solutions and the future rather than dwelling on problems in the past or present.**

**Questions for “I’ll Bury You”**

1. What can you infer about the relationship between the two figures depicted in the cartoon?

**The two figures do not want to give in to each other. They have a tense relationship.**

2. The sign in the background reads “Danger Quick-Sand.” What does that mean in the context of the image?

**This indicates that the two figures may be ignoring other dangers that might take them by surprise because of their focus on the competition between themselves.**

3. Considering the image, what might you conclude about the artist’s views on U.S. foreign policy? Explain.

**The artist does not seem to have a favorable view of the effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy. Student must explain what about the image helps them to reach that conclusion.**

4. This cartoon was published about six months into Kennedy’s presidency. How does it represent the viewpoints he expressed during the election campaign?

**The cartoon represents Kennedy’s demonstration that strength would be necessary in the Cold War. However, it goes against some of what he said in his inaugural address about compromise and cooperation.**

**Questions for Telegram to President John F. Kennedy**

1. What is the tone of Martin Luther King Jr.'s telegram to President Kennedy? Do you think he is satisfied with Kennedy's performance thus far?

**King was polite but urgent in his tone. He did not appear satisfied that Kennedy had done enough for civil rights.**

2. Why do you think King connected the issue of domestic policy regarding civil rights to the U.S.'s foreign policy stance on promoting democracy around the world?

**Student must make a claim and support it with evidence from the text and from what they have learned in the classroom. Answers could discuss the moral argument made about democracy vs. communism, the Democratic Party's platform linking the morality of the fight for civil rights to the fight against communism, or the possible hypocrisy of standing up for freedom internationally but not ensuring freedom at home.**

3. What specific action did King ask Kennedy to take?

**King urged Kennedy to release the people currently imprisoned in Albany, Georgia, who were arrested in the fight for civil rights.**

4. What did King's plea suggest about Kennedy's progress on addressing civil rights issues?

**It suggests that Kennedy had not fulfilled his campaign promises on the issue of civil rights.**

**Questions for “Report to the American People on Civil Rights”**

1. What event led to President Kennedy’s speech and who was he addressing?

**Violent threats on the University of Alabama campus led to Kennedy’s speech. He is addressing the American people but is particularly focused on white Americans.**

2. According to Kennedy, why were civil rights *not* a sectional issue?

**Civil rights were not a sectional issue because there were problems with equality throughout the nation.**

3. What was Kennedy alluding to when he described the “rising tide of discontent”?

**Kennedy was referencing the growing tension between those who favored and those who opposed the goals of the Civil Rights Movement.**

4. Several times in this short speech, Kennedy referenced the “worldwide struggle” in which the United States was engaged. What argument did Kennedy make in connecting U.S. domestic policy related to civil rights with foreign affairs? Do you think this is a valid argument? Explain.

**Kennedy argued that the U.S. could not be the authority on freedom if all of its own people were not free. He further pointed out that military service protecting the nation from communism was not segregated and neither should anything else be.**

**Student must make a claim and support it with evidence.**