From Common Core Unit: **A Close Reading of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address** ([www.achievethecore.org](http://www.achievethecore.org))

**A Sampling of Questions from the Unit**

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| “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” | What does Lincoln mean by “four score and seven years ago”? Who are “our fathers”?  
What does conceived mean?  
What does proposition mean?  
What is he saying is significant about America? Is he saying that no one has been free or equal before? So what is new?  
When was “four score and seven years ago”?  
What does Lincoln tell us in this first sentence about what happened 87 years ago? |
| “Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.” | What impact does starting the sentence with “now” have on its meaning?  
When Lincoln says the nation was “so conceived and so dedicated” what is he referring to?  
What is the point including the phrase “or any nation so conceived and so dedicated” – what would the sentence mean without it?  
The impact of a word choice: What if Lincoln had used the verb “start” instead of “conceive”? |
| (Review entire speech) | Look carefully at Lincoln’s speech; which verb does he use the most (sometime he uses it in the past tense)?  
Circle the verb each time it appears in the text. |
| “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and **dedicated** to the proposition that all men are created equal.  
Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so **dedicated**, can long endure.” | What does the word “dedicate,” mean the first two times Lincoln uses it, and what other verb is closely linked to it the first two times it appears? |
| “We have come to **dedicate** a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.  
But, in a larger sense, we can not **dedicate**—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground.” | How is “dedicate” used the next two times, and how does it relate to the word consecrate? Who is now doing the dedicating? |