**Gettysburg Address: Abraham Lincoln, 1863**

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. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. 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 cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom— and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

1. What was the purpose of this speech? Underline or highlight at least TWO sections of the speech that show Lincoln’s purpose.

2. According to this speech, what are the Union and Lincoln trying to save?

3. Read page 52 in your textbook. Why was this speech given *after* the Battle of Gettysburg?

4. What was the “last full measure” given by some at Gettysburg?

**Vocabulary:**

**Conceive** – to form a notion or idea  
**Proposition** – a suggestion that something be done or thought about  
**Engaged**– to be occupied with a task  
**Endure** – to continue to exist or last  
**Consecrate** – to make or declare sacred; set apart or dedicate  
**Hallow** – to honor as holy or sacred   
**Detract** – to draw away or divert attention  
**Devotion** – dedication, or commitment to a cause  
**Vain** – without real significance or value  
**Perish** – to pass away or disappear