**Franklin Roosevelt’s First Inaugural Address**

1. Reread the first two sentences of Roosevelt’s speech. What does Roosevelt say the present situation requires him to do when speaking to the American people?
2. Roosevelt says this inaugural address is “preeminently the time” to speak the truth to the American people. Why would this instance be different than any other time?
3. What does Roosevelt state that Americans should fear? Why would he choose to begin his speech by addressing the citizens’ fears?
4. In the second paragraph, Roosevelt identifies some of the nation’s “common difficulties.” He states that “They concern, thank God, only material things.” What does he mean by this statement?
5. When Roosevelt states, “We are stricken by no plague of locusts,” what message is he trying to instill in the minds of his audience?
6. Who or what caused the current economic situation, according to Roosevelt?
7. When identifying actions that he proposes to address the country’s economic problems, Roosevelt repeats the phrase “it can be helped by” six times in the same paragraph. He finishes the paragraph by stating, “but it can never be helped by merely talking about it.” What idea or belief is Roosevelt attempting to instill in the audience?
8. In his plans for the country, Roosevelt advocates for “national planning for and supervision of all forms of transportation and of communications,” and “strict supervision of all banking and credits and investments.” What does Roosevelt mean by “national planning?”
9. Roosevelt calls the U.S. Constitution “the most superbly enduring political mechanism in the world.” How does Roosevelt support this assertion? How does his praise of the Constitution support his proposed plan for leading the country?
10. Roosevelt weaves multiple war-related terms and metaphors throughout this speech. What connection is Roosevelt trying to make for his audience by employing these military terms and metaphors? How does Roosevelt’s use of these war metaphors provide support for his plans for the country?

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