Name: _____ Date: _____

Gettysburg Address Classwork Packet

1. Translate the text of the first paragraph into your own words in one or more sentences. Do not summarize, but paraphrase (put in your own words).

2. What does Lincoln mean by "four score and seven years ago"? Who are "our fathers"?

3. What is he saying is significant about America? Is he saying that no one has been free or equal before? So what is new?

4. What is a score? What important thing happened in 1776?

5. What is the impact of what Lincoln referring to such a famous date?

6. Based upon what you have learned rewrite your translation of the first paragraph.

7. What impact does starting the second paragraph with “now” have on its meaning?

8. 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?

9. What if Lincoln had used the verb “start” instead of “conceive?”

10. Translate the text of the third paragraph into your own words in one or more sentences.

11. What is the impact of starting the third paragraph with “but”?

12. What does Lincoln describe as the impact of those who fought at Gettysburg?

13. What does the word “rather” mean in this sentence?

14. How does Lincoln use the idea of “unfinished work” to assign responsibility to his listeners?

15. What four specific ideas does Lincoln ask his listeners to commit themselves to at the end of his speech?

1)

2)

3)

4)

16. Based upon what you have learned rewrite your translation of the third paragraph.

Day 2:

1) Look carefully at Lincoln's speech, how many times does he use the word "dedicate"? Circle the verb each time it appears in the text.

How many times? _____

2) 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?

3) How is "dedicate" used the next two times, and how does it relate to the word consecrate? Who is now doing the dedicating?

4) How does Lincoln use "dedicate" the final two times, and how does it relate to devotion?

5) Summarize how the meanings of "dedicate" accumulate from the beginning of the speech to the end, and explain the impact of the meaning that has built up over the course of the speech.

6) Write a page length essay based on your understanding of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Essay Prompt: In the last paragraph of the "Gettysburg Address," Lincoln shifts the focus of his speech away from what he says is its purpose at the end of the second paragraph. What reasons does he give for the shift in focus? What does Lincoln think is the task left to those listening to his speech? Use evidence from the text and to support your analysis.

Formulate an answer to these questions in a thoughtful brief essay.