Before You Read

Tilbury Speech by Queen Elizabeth I

REVIEW SKILLS

As you read, think about how Queen Elizabeth's tone in the Tilbury Speech helps her achieve her purpose.

TONE
Attitude toward a topic that is revealed by word choice.

LITERARY FOCUS: AUTHOR'S INTENT AND TONE

Queen Elizabeth's Tilbury Speech conveys how deeply she loved her country and her people. The queen's beliefs are revealed in her patriotic **tone**—the words, images, and details she uses to make her point. Elizabeth's powerful use of language and courageous tone is meant to inspire her listeners. She is prepared to take up arms alongside her people to drive out all threats to her kingdom.

Listening to Language The tone an author uses can be described as serious or playful, formal or casual, threatening or comforting—or any number of other adjectives. Read the passages below, and jot down some adjectives you would use to describe the tone in each.

Passage	Tone
The castle on the hill is a magnificent reminder of our nation's past. The sun shines on the old stones of the building, bringing to mind the dull glint of armor on the battlefields. The old kitchen garden within the castle wall still blooms sweet with lavender, sage, and thyme.	
The old castle stands on the hill, forbidding and cold, not to mention damp. The old stones form a crumbling barrier against a long forgotten enemy. The kitchen gardens are the only sign of life in a setting that has no real meaning in our world.	

SKILLS FOCUS

Literary Skills Understand and analyze author's intent and tone.

Readings Skills Draw inferences.

Review Skills Understand an author's tone.

READING SKILLS: DRAWING INFERENCES

Sometimes you must draw inferences in order to understand things a writer has not stated directly. An **inference** is a guess you make based on information in the text and on your own knowledge and experience. To draw an inference, focus on important details in the text, and then combine that information with what you already know.

Use the Skill As you read the Tilbury Speech, underline or highlight details that help you make inferences about Queen Elizabeth's beliefs.

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Tilbury Speech

Queen Elizabeth I

BACKGROUND

Queen Elizabeth I of England (reigned 1558–1603) could speak and read six languages, and dazzled her court with both her superb literary skills and her political know-how. She wrote poems, letters, sermons, and masterful speeches, such as the Tilbury Speech.

In 1588, a fleet of warships called the Spanish Armada sailed from Spain to attack England. At Tilbury, Queen Elizabeth addressed the English army as they prepared for a dangerous battle.

My loving people: We have been persuaded by some that are careful of our safety to take heed how we commit ourself to armed multitudes for fear of treachery, but I assure you I do not desire to live to distrust my faithful and loving people. Let tyrants fear. I have always so behaved myself that, under God, I have placed my chiefest strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and goodwill of my subjects. And therefore I am come amongst you, as you see, at this time, not for my recreation and disport, but being resolved in the midst and heat of the battle to live or die amongst you all, to lay down for my God, and for my kingdom, and for my people, my honor and my blood, even in the dust. I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king—and of a king of England too—and think foul scorn that Parma, or Spain, or any prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm. To which, rather than any dishonor shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field. I know already for your forwardness you have deserved rewards and crowns, and we do assure you, in the word of a prince, they shall be duly paid you.

INFER

Elizabeth uses the word *treachery* (line 3) and indicates that she is in danger. What can you **infer** about the queen's political situation?

ANALYZE

Re-read lines 1–7, and underline the words Elizabeth uses to describe her subjects. Why might she have chosen these words?

FLUENCY

Read the speech aloud. First, circle words that convey Elizabeth's **tone** as she promises to fight, and emphasize those words as you read. ***(Review Skill)***

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Tilbury Speech

Reading Skills: Drawing Inferences Elizabeth I's rousing speech contains details that hint at her intentions and beliefs. Answer the questions below by listing details from the text that help you find the answers. Then, answer each question by drawing an inference. Write your inference in the column at the right.

Question	Details in the Text	My Inference
How does Elizabeth feel about her relationship to her subjects?		
Are people trying to persuade Elizabeth to be more careful?		
What picture of herself as a leader does Elizabeth try to convey?		
What is Elizabeth's main point?		

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