Finish each sentence using the vocabulary word provided.

1. **(unfettered)** I let my dog out of its cage ____________________________.

2. **(incentive)** My mother said she would take me to the movies ____________________________.

3. **(recreation)** Swimming at the local pool ____________________________.

4. **(horizons)** Learning how to speak a new language ____________________________.
Read the selection. Complete the theme graphic organizer.
Read the passage. Check your understanding by asking yourself what the theme, or message, of the poem is.

**Ode to Mr. Lincoln**

I watch as you sit on your marble chair,
I see your marble arms and hands, solid and firm
As the earth itself, and I think to myself those hands
Once held a whole country together. I think to myself
Those hands once held the future of democracy
As gently as morning light falls on a field of battle.
How could one man not bend under that burden?
You saw to it that people were free,
No matter their color or race or creed,
No matter what songs they sang.
You saw to it that all of your people had choices.
You followed the path you chose for yourself
As surely as the stars follow their paths across the sky.
The worries of your life are behind you, Mr. Lincoln,
Though once they lay heavy on your heart—
As weighty as mountains of stone on the horizon,
As numerous as snowflakes covering a burial ground.
The union has lasted far beyond four score and seven years,
but you can rest till time and tide are done
and let your thoughts wander wherever they will.
Comprehension: Theme and Fluency

Name ____________________________________________

A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. What national monument is the poet referring to in the first two lines of the poem?
   __________________________________________________________

2. What lines describe Lincoln’s accomplishments?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. What does the phrase “The worries of your life are behind you” mean?
   __________________________________________________________

4. What theme, or message, about Lincoln does the poet convey to the reader?
   __________________________________________________________

B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to expression and phrasing. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words Read</th>
<th>Number of Errors</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>Words Correct Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Read</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>=</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Read</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>=</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To an Artist

The city is bustling, noisy, and bright
With trucks, cars, and taxicabs, both day and night,
And with people so anxious to get here or there,
As they text on their cell phones and fuss with their hair.
On they go, pounding the pavement and street.
On they go, wearing their shoes off their feet.
At a corner an artist stands, paintbrush in hand,
A statue of silence observing the land.
Like a wizard, he captures a moment—Look! There!
Beauty on canvas; most pass, unaware.

Answer the questions about the text.

1. How do you know that this text is a lyric poem?

2. How do you know this text is also an ode?

3. What repetition can you find in the text?

4. Choose one powerful image from the text. What message do you think the poet tries to communicate with that image?
Name ____________________________

**Repetition** is the repeating of a word or phrase. Poets use repetition to emphasize an idea and to give the poem rhythm.

**Imagery** is the use of words to create a vivid picture in the reader’s mind.

Read the lines of the ode below. Then answer the questions.

**Ode to Mr. Lincoln**

I watch as you sit on your marble chair,
I see your marble arms and hands, solid and firm
As the earth itself, and I think to myself those hands
Once held a whole country together. I think to myself
Those hands once held the future of democracy
As gently as morning light falls on a field of battle.
How could one man not bend under that burden?

1. Find an example of repetition in the poem. Write it below.

_____________________________________________________________________

2. Find two examples of imagery in the poem. Write them below.

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

3. How do the repetition and imagery affect the poem?

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

4. Write a short poem about someone you admire that includes repetition and imagery.

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

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Read each passage and pay special attention to the hyperbole in bold. Then decide whether the statement below the passage expresses the true meaning of the hyperbole. If it does not, write what you think the words in bold are meant to communicate.

1. I see your marble arms and hands, **solid and firm**
   As the earth itself, and I think to myself those hands
   Once held a whole country together.
   Because they are marble, the statue’s hands are actually as solid and firm as the earth.
   
   [□] True  [□] False

2. You followed the path you chose for yourself
   **As surely as the stars follow their paths across the sky.**
   Abraham Lincoln was extremely sure and steady in his beliefs and actions.
   
   [□] True  [□] False

3. The worries of your life are behind you, Mr. Lincoln,
   Though once they lay heavy on your heart—
   **As weighty as mountains of stone on the horizon,**
   **As numerous as snowflakes covering a burial ground.**
   Abraham Lincoln had millions of worries that weighed many tons.
   
   [□] True  [□] False
Name ________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word from Mythology</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ceres</td>
<td>Roman goddess of grain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaos</td>
<td>Greek goddess; formless gap between heaven and earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flora</td>
<td>Roman goddess of flowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris</td>
<td>Greek goddess of the rainbow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>Roman messenger of the gods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titans</td>
<td>Greek gods who were giants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sol</td>
<td>Roman god of the sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psyche</td>
<td>Greek character who represents the human soul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read each sentence below. Use the chart to underline the word that comes from one of the Greek or Roman names. Then circle the part of the word that it shares with the name from mythology.

1. We used special glasses to view the solar eclipse.
2. He gave his mother a floral bouquet on her birthday.
3. The powerful hurricane threw the town into chaos.
4. What is your sister’s favorite breakfast cereal?
5. A titanic wave washed onto the deserted shore.
6. During the science experiment, the teacher poured mercury into the glass.
7. I want to study psychology so I can understand the way people think.
8. We picked a colorful iris from the garden.
Write a paragraph about the poem you chose. Cite evidence from the text to show how details in the poem support what you think is the theme, or the poet’s overall message. Remember to combine sentences correctly as needed.

Write a topic sentence: ________________________________________________________________

Cite evidence from the text: _________________________________________________________

Evidence is details and examples from a text that support a writer’s ideas. The student who wrote the paragraph below cited evidence to support an argument about what the theme of a poem is.

I think the theme of “Ode to Mr. Lincoln” is how important it is to remember that the difficult things Abraham Lincoln accomplished have lasted. The poet says that Lincoln’s “solid and firm” hands held the country together. He didn’t actually do it with his bare hands. The poet is saying how strong and resolved he was. By saying that the union has lasted beyond 87 years, the poet shows that Lincoln’s achievement was a lasting one.

For these reasons, I believe the theme of this poem is that Lincoln’s life continues to affect us all.

End with a concluding statement: ____________________________________________________
A. Read the draft model. Use the questions that follow the draft to help you choose words with connotations that accurately express the speaker’s feelings.

Draft Model

I like to look at clouds as they move across the sky. They look like a good place to lie down and take a nap or read a book.

1. Why do the clouds look like a good place to lie down and take a nap? What words make you think of a relaxing place?

2. How might it feel to lie down on the clouds? What words will best convey how the speaker feels about lying in the clouds?

3. How would you describe time passed in the clouds? What words best convey the sort of experience the speaker might have on a cloud?

B. Now revise the draft by adding descriptive words with connotations that accurately and clearly express the speaker’s feelings.

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________