

Decoding Primary Sources:

"The White Man's Burden" by Rudyard Kipling (1899)

Directions: Rudyard Kipling, a British writer, wrote this poem encouraging the United States to take over the Philippines. The first stanza was done for you to see as an example.

1. Read the 2nd stanza once through.
2. Underline words you do not know.
3. Look up the underlined words.
4. Translate each line into words that you understand
5. Summarize the stanza in your own words

White Man's Burden	Your Translation
Take up the White Man's burden Send forth the best ye breed Go bind your sons to exile To serve your captives' need; To wait in heavy harness, On fluttered folk and wild Your new-caught, sullen people, Half-devil and half-child.	<i>Take on the responsibilities of your race. send the best people you have send your sons for the job to care for the needs of people you took over to wait for the tough job on frustrated and wild people newly captured and unhappy who are evil and stupid.</i>
Take up the White Man's burden The savage wars of peace Fill full the mouth of Famine And bid the sickness cease; And when your goal is nearest The end for others sought, Watch sloth and heathen Folly Bring all your hopes to nought.	

Summary (example from 1st stanza): Rudyard Kipling is saying: Take on the responsibilities of your race to "civilize" or advance the native people your country has taken over. Send the best people you have for this tough job, even your own sons! The natives you are responsible for caring for are frustrated, wild, unhappy, evil and stupid but you still have to try your best.

Summarize in your own words (2nd stanza): Rudyard Kipling is saying:

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Directions: Rudyard Kipling, a British writer, wrote this poem encouraging the United States to take over the Philippines. The first stanza was done for you to see as an example.

1. Read the 3rd stanza once through.
2. Underline words you do not know.
3. Look up the underlined words.
4. Translate each line into words that you understand
5. Summarize the stanza in your own words

White Man's Burden	Your Translation
Take up the White Man's burden Send forth the best ye breed Go bind your sons to exile To serve your captives' need; To wait in heavy harness, On fluttered folk and wild Your new-caught, sullen people, Half-devil and half-child.	<i>Take on the responsibilities of your race. send the best people you have send your sons for the job to care for the needs of people you took over to wait for the tough job on frustrated and wild people newly captured and unhappy who are evil and stupid.</i>
Take up the White Man's burden And reap his old reward: The blame of those ye better, The hate of those ye guard The cry of hosts ye humour (Ah, slowly!) toward the light: "Why brought he us from bondage, Our loved Egyptian night?"	

Summary (example from 1st stanza): Rudyard Kipling is saying: Take on the responsibilities of your race to "civilize" or advance the native people your country has taken over. Send the best people you have for this tough job, even your own sons! The natives you are responsible for caring for are frustrated, wild, unhappy, evil and stupid but you still have to try your best.

Summarize in your own words (3rd stanza): Rudyard Kipling is saying:

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Directions: Rudyard Kipling, a British writer, wrote this poem encouraging the United States to take over the Philippines. The first stanza was done for you to see as an example.

1. Read the 4th stanza once through.
2. Underline words you do not know.
3. Look up the underlined words.
4. Translate each line into words that you understand
5. Summarize the stanza in your own words

White Man's Burden	Your Translation
Take up the White Man's burden Send forth the best ye breed Go bind your sons to exile To serve your captives' need; To wait in heavy harness, On fluttered folk and wild Your new-caught, sullen people, Half-devil and half-child.	<i>Take on the responsibilities of your race. send the best people you have send your sons for the job to care for the needs of people you took over to wait for the tough job on frustrated and wild people newly captured and unhappy who are evil and stupid.</i>
Take up the White Man's burden Ye dare not stoop to less Nor call too loud on Freedom To cloak your weariness By all ye cry or whisper, By all ye leave or do, The silent, sullen peoples, Shall weigh your gods and you.	

Summary (example from 1st stanza): Rudyard Kipling is saying: Take on the responsibilities of your race to "civilize" or advance the native people your country has taken over. Send the best people you have for this tough job, even your own sons! The natives you are responsible for caring for are frustrated, wild, unhappy, evil and stupid but you still have to try your best.

Summarize in your own words (4th stanza): Rudyard Kipling is saying:

Name: _____ Core: _____

The White Man's Burden Questions

1. How are the native people viewed by the writer? Give one example from the text.
2. According to the author, **why** are imperialist countries helping the people they take over?
3. According to the author, **how** are imperialist countries helping the people they take over?
4. Imagine you are a native person. How would you react to the poem?
5. Imagine you are a European/American person. How would you react to the poem?

Name: _____ Core: _____

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