

First Speech as Prime Minister to House of Commons: analysis

Comprehension

1. Considering the context of the speech, pick the following information up about the speech

Subject:	
Occasion:	
Audience:	
Purpose:	
Speaker:	
Tone:	

2. Reading and listening to the Churchill's speech, pinpoint in the text these topics

- WWII is beginning
- Churchill is warning the citizens of Great Britain to be prepared for battle
- It is imperative that Great Britain is victorious
- Without victory, Great Britain will not survive
- Without survival, Great Britain's goals cannot be reached

Stylistic analysis

3. Read the statements picked up from the text, match the correct figure of speech and the effect achieved.

Statements	Figures of speech and their effect
"...we are in the preliminary stage of one of the greatest battles in history," "We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind" "We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering"	Rhetorical Questions: The answer is obvious to the audience, but Churchill is making sure the audience is aware and truly believe the answer.
"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat."	Intense diction emphasizes the subjects
"... victory; victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory , however long and hard the road may be; for without victory , there is no survival."	strong ethos by speaking honestly and telling the truth
"What is our policy?" "What is our aim?"	Anaphora: random repetition forms a stronger and more meaningful message
"I now invite the House...to record its approval of the steps taken and to declare its confidence in the new Government."	Metonymy: if everyone works together, Britain will be stronger and more powerful
"Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength."	Synecdoche and Parallelism: figure of speech in which a part stands for the whole

4. *The main statement of the speech is “I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat.”; with these words Churchill wanted to involve the citizens as much as possible.*

Check the right sentences concerning this phrase:

- Churchill is committed
- Churchill doesn't want the British people to expect great or super-human things out of him.
- He says that war will be shut out from British islands.
- Churchill denies that Nazi's army will land in Great Britain.
- Churchill wants the British to invade Germany.
- He declares that many British soldiers will be shot during the war.
- He does want them to know he is dedicated to serving his country and that he will match the efforts of every citizen to accomplish the difficult task ahead.
- Churchill wants the British to be persuaded that war will be won easily.
- Churchill is going to give this war his all.
- Churchill wants to win no matter what it takes.
- Term refers to hard work or effort put into a project (WWII).

Final report

Share your answers with your schoolmates' ones and set up a short oral exposition (5' max) about the Churchill's speech; consider these tips to arrange the topic.

- Speaker's presentation
- Historical context of the speech
- Speaker's aims
- Main subjects
- Figures of speech used
- Targets achieved