

Making the Future Better, Together

Eboo Patel, Close Reader p.3-8

Read page 3

Patel compares two situations to open his blog – one from the present, the other from the past – prefacing the situations with a reference to George Washington to get the reader’s attention.

1. Identify the two situations Patel is comparing, using evidence and citing words from Washington that Patel thinks define the “essence of our nation.”
2. *Demean* is a word with multiple meanings. How is it used in line 15? What does it mean?

Share your answer with your shoulder partner. (2 min.)

By opening his blog with a reference to George Washington’s views about bigotry, Patel grabs the reader’s interest and introduces the topic and point of view he will be presenting in his blog.

3. State Patel’s point of view and support it with Washington’s intolerance of bigotry, citing specific evidence from the text.

Share your answer with your shoulder partner. (2 min.)

Read page 4

4. Cite specific details or textual evidence that explains Washington's reasoning and views concerning America's refusal to sanction bigotry.

Share your answer with your shoulder partner. (2 min.)

Read page 5

5. Cite explicit textual evidence that shows how Patel supports his opinion about Washington's point of view concerning freedom and personal identity.
6. Write one response that best states King's outlook for the United States, citing specific textual evidence.

Share your answer with your shoulder partner. (2 min.)

Read page 6

7. How does Patel use King's retelling of the story of Rip Van Winkle to make a point about change? How does this support his own argument about working together toward change?
8. What does cynical mean in context? Give an example of cynical behavior.

Share your answer with your shoulder partner. (2 min.)

Read page 7

9. What is Patel asking the Freshman class at George Washington University to do on the 10th anniversary of 9/11?
10. How does Patel's evidence support his own claim that by working together, we can shape the future?

Share your answer with your shoulder partner. (2 min.)

Read page 8

11. What are King's hopes?

12. What kind of a world does Patel envision for the future?

Share your answer with your shoulder partner. (2 min.)