

Pericles' Funeral Oration from History of the Peloponnesian War

By Thucydides

Critical Reading

1. Respond: What do you admire most about Athenian society as described by Pericles in his funeral oration? What do you admire least?
2. Recall: What is Pericles' attitude toward a man who has no interest in politics?
3. (b) Infer: What does this suggest about the Athenians' commitment to the principles of democracy?
4. (a) Recall: In honoring the war dead, Pericles says that their deaths accomplished two things. What are these two things?
5. (a) Recall: On what do happiness and freedom depend, according to Pericles? (b) Interpret: What values seem to be most important to Pericles?
6. (a) Recall: What comfort does Pericles offer to the parents of the dead?
7. (b) Draw Conclusions: What does this tell you about the Athenian attitude toward honor?