

## GRADE 8, Third Quarter Wars and Economic Challenges

I like to see it lap the miles, And lick the valleys up,  
And stop to feed itself at tanks; And then, prodigious,  
step Around a pile of mountains, And supercilious, peer  
To fit its sides, and crawl between,  
Complaining all the while In horrid,  
hooting stanza; Then chase itself  
down hill... Emily Dickinson, "XLIII"

### Word Windows into History

Poems, Songs and Documents

Selected for the Themes and Eras Illuminated through American Art

*Prepared by the DePaul University Center for Urban Education  
for the Terra Teacher Lab  
Terra Foundation for American Art*

These are examples of songs, poems and documents that illustrate times in US history. You can use them to help students understand that a poem or song is a word picture and can be interpreted just as a painting can be—and that in context it makes more sense as well as providing a window into that context.

# GRADE 8, Third Quarter

## Wars and Economic Challenges

### Documents

Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speech (original and transcribed text)

Diary of Theodore Joslin, Secretary to President Herbert Hoover

A collection of posters from World War II is not reprinted in this binder but can be viewed here:

[http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/powers\\_of\\_persuasion/powers\\_of\\_persuasion\\_intro.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/powers_of_persuasion/powers_of_persuasion_intro.html)

### Poems and Songs

From "War is Kind"

"Dulce et Decorum Est"

"Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?"

The following poems and songs are not reprinted in this binder, but can be accessed at the websites listed below.

"Bomb Crater Sky"

<http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/16886>

"The Bean Eaters"

<http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15913>

"The Miner's Family"

<http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/16939>

"This City"

<http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/19749>

"Hay for the Horses"

<http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15436>

## Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" Address

Listen to a sound clip here: [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american\\_originals/fdr.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals/fdr.html)

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with <sup>that</sup> ~~the~~ nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been <sup>reported</sup> torpedoes on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the <sup>life and</sup> ~~very~~ safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will be remembered the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people ~~will~~ in their righteous night <sup>will</sup> win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

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With confidence in our armed forces -- with the unbounding determination of our people -- we will gain the inevitable triumph -- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the main text block.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 8, 1941.

## **Day of Infamy**

**Franklin D. Roosevelt - Dec. 7, 1941**

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The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with the government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleagues delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.  
Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam.  
Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.  
Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island.  
This morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As commander in chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounding determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, Dec. 7, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.

# Eyewitness

## American Originals from the National Archives

### Passing of an Era

#### Theodore Joslin - President Herbert Hoover's Last Days in Office, 1933

Some of the most harrowing moments of the Great Depression came in the final weeks of President Herbert Hoover's administration with the collapse of the nation's banking system in February 1933. The imminent failure of two large banks in Michigan prompted that state's governor to declare a "banking holiday" on February 14, setting off a panic that soon infected the entire nation. During the last two weeks of Hoover's Presidency (Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn into office on March 4), more than \$1.2 billion was taken out of the nation's banks to be stored in mattresses, shoeboxes, and other hiding places believed to be more secure than the country's financial institutions.

The fear and panic that gripped the nation reached all the way into the White House, where the President's secretary, Theodore Joslin, admitted to the President that he had withdrawn money from a Washington, DC, bank that he feared was on the brink of failure; the President urged Joslin to re-deposit the money in another bank. Joslin's diary entry recounts that conversation.

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#### Diary of Theodore Joslin, secretary to President Herbert Hoover, February 27, 1933



The final entry for this diary is March 3, 1933, the day before Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn into office. The final line quotes the President (described by Joslin as "angry and depressed,") saying "We are at the end of our string."

*National Archives, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, West Branch, Iowa*

#### **Excerpt:**

"The Commercial [Bank] did open this morning and although I felt unpatriotic in doing so, I drew out most of the money in my checking account and had Rowena come in and withdraw her savings account. And I told the President what I had done. 'Don't hoard it, Ted,' was his only comment. 'Put it in another bank that is safe. I would suggest the Riggs. It is the most liquid.' But I am 'hoarding' temporarily. No bank is really liquid today and won't be until this panic is over. The daily hoarding figures from the Treasury are gastly. That of yesterday was \$165,000,000, bringing the total to in excess of \$2,200,000,000 . . ."

—From Theodore Joslin's diary

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#### Diary of Theodore Joslin, secretary to President Herbert Hoover, February 28, 1933

The final entry for this diary is March 3, 1933, the day before Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn into office. The final line quotes the President (described by Joslin as "angry and depressed,") saying "We are at the end of our string."

#### **Excerpt:**

"The people are more panic stricken today than at any time since the beginning of the depression."

—From Theodore Joslin's diary





National Archives, Herbert Hoover  
Presidential Library and Museum, West  
Branch, Iowa

**Anxious depositors in Cleveland, Ohio,  
learn that withdrawals are limited to  
five percent of their deposits, February 28, 1933**



National Archives, Records of the U.S.  
Information Agency [306-NT-443H-1]

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**President Herbert Hoover in the Oval Office with Theodore Joslin, 1932**



National Archives, Herbert Hoover  
Presidential Library and Museum, West  
Branch, Iowa [NLHH-1932-10E]



## *From War Is Kind*

by Stephen Crane

Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind.  
Because your lover threw wild hands toward the sky  
And the affrighted steed ran on alone,  
Do not weep.  
War is kind.

Hoarse, booming drums of the regiment  
Little souls who thirst for fight,  
These men were born to drill and die  
The unexplained glory flies above them  
Great is the battle-god, great, and his kingdom--  
A field where a thousand corpses lie.

Do not weep, babe, for war is kind.  
Because your father tumbled in the yellow trenches,  
Raged at his breast, gulped and died,  
Do not weep.  
War is kind.

Swift, blazing flag of the regiment  
Eagle with crest of red and gold,  
These men were born to drill and die  
Point for them the virtue of slaughter  
Make plain to them the excellence of killing  
And a field where a thousand corpses lie.

Mother whose heart hung humble as a button  
On the bright splendid shroud of your son,  
Do not weep.  
War is kind.

## Dulce et Decorum Est

by Wilfred Owen

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,  
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,  
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs  
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.  
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots  
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;  
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots  
Of tired, outstripped Five-Nines that dropped behind.

Gas! Gas! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling,  
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time;  
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling  
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime...  
Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light,  
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,  
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams you too could pace  
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,  
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,  
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;  
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood  
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,  
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud  
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—  
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest  
To children ardent for some desperate glory,  
The old Lie: *Dulce et decorum est*  
*Pro patria mori.*

## Brother, Can You Spare a Dime

lyrics by Yip Harburg

music by Jay Gorney (1931)

They used to tell me I was building a dream, and so I followed the mob,  
When there was earth to plow, or guns to bear, I was always there right on the job.  
They used to tell me I was building a dream, with peace and glory ahead,  
Why should I be standing in line, just waiting for bread?  
Once I built a railroad, I made it run, made it race against time.  
Once I built a railroad; now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?  
Once I built a tower, up to the sun, brick, and rivet, and lime;  
Once I built a tower, now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?  
Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,  
Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,  
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,  
And I was the kid with the drum!  
Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.  
Why don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?  
Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,  
Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,  
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,  
And I was the kid with the drum!  
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<http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/cherries.html>