Name: _____ Close Reading

Literal Inferential

an excerpt from **Nonviolence: The Only Road to Freedom**
Dr. Martin Luther King – May 4, 1966

1 I am convinced that for practical as well as moral reasons, nonviolence offers the only road to freedom for my people. In violent warfare, one must be prepared to face ruthlessly the fact that there will be casualties by the thousands…

2 When my home was bombed in 1955 in Montgomery, many men wanted to retaliate[1], to place an armed guard on my home. But the issue there was not my life, but whether Negroes would achieve first-class treatment on the city's buses. Had we become distracted by the question of my safety, we would have lost the moral offensive and

3 sunk to the level of our oppressors[2].

I must continue by faith, or it is too great a burden to bear, and violence, even in self-defense, creates more problems than it solves. *Only* a refusal to hate or kill can put an end to the chain of violence in the world and lead us toward a community where men can live together without fear. Our goal is to create a beloved community and

4 this will require a qualitative[3] change in our souls as well as a quantitative[4] change in our lives.

There is no easy way to create a world where men and women can live together, where each has his own job and house and where all children receive as much education as their minds can absorb. But if such a world is created in our lifetime, it will be done in the United States by Negroes and white people of good will. It will be accomplished by persons who have the courage to put an end to suffering by willingly suffering themselves rather than inflict[5] suffering upon others. It will be done by rejecting the racism, materialism and violence of Western civilization and especially by working toward a world of brotherhood, cooperation, and peace.

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[1] **retaliate** – fight back
[2] **oppressors** – those who bully weaker people; those who persecute people in unfavorable situations
[3] **qualitative** – not measured by numbers; instead, measured by "feelings" or "stories
[4] **quantitative** – measured by numbers and statistics, such as an increase in the percentage of blacks allowed to attend college
[5] **inflict** – cause, impose

Level 1: Literal Comprehension

Step 1: We will read the entire article together one time, without stopping. Listen carefully as your teacher reads aloud.

Step 2: We will read the article together again, but will stop after each paragraph to paraphrase at the LEFT SIDE of each paragraph.

- Our class will paraphrase paragraph 1 together.
- You will paraphrase paragraph 3 with a partner.
- You will paraphrase paragraphs 3 and 4 on your own.

Step 3: You will answer the question below.

Summary: In 3-4 sentences, summarize the excerpt from **Nonviolence: The Only Road to Freedom**. Return to the excerpt and underline and label key sentences with an Ⓢ to note which details you considered relevant to your summary.

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Level 2: Inferential Thinking

Step 1: We will collectively read though the entire article again.

Step 2: Occasionally, your teacher will stop and ask you to annotate an inference on the right side of the page.

Step 3: You will answer the questions below.

- You will answer question 1 with a partner.
- You will answer question 2 on your own.

Question	Answer	Evidence
1. Re-read the sentence from paragraph 3 below: *Only* a refusal to hate or kill can put an end to the chain of violence in the world and lead us toward a community where men can live together without fear. Why does Dr. King **most likely** include this sentence?	**A. To emphasize that nonviolence is the sole way to create a positive community.** **B. To highlight that there are multiple violent acts occurring in the world at this time.** **C. To contrast being afraid of death with living in a fearless way.** **D. To educate his followers about the negative consequences of violence and hatred.**	Underline the key words in the sentence that best support your answer. Annotate for comprehension.
2. Based on paragraph 4, a reader can reasonably infer which of the following about Dr. King?	**A. Dr. King does not believe that whites and blacks can effectively work together.** **B. Dr. King believes that in order to end suffering, he may himself have to suffer.** **C. Dr. King believes that deep down, all whites are good-hearted people.** **D. Dr. King believes that educating children is the key to peace.**	Return to paragraph 4. Underline the sentence that best supports your answer. Annotate for comprehension.

Level 3: Thematic

Step 1: We have read this article 3 times. Before you read it one final time, try to write a statement that captures the **theme** of this article.

Theme Statement:

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Step 2: We will read this text independently. As you read, underline or highlight evidence that supports the theme statement you wrote; if you are unable to find evidence to support the theme, you may need to reconsider what the true theme is and reread again for evidence. You will need this evidence for your written response.

Step 3: On your own, write a multi-paragraph response that answers the following questions:

- **What is the theme of this text?**
- **Which powerful words and phrases does Dr. King use to emphasize the theme of this text?**

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