

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Proclamation Analysis

**Directions:** Read the excerpt below from President Woodrow Wilson's 1916 Flag Day Proclamation. Then answer the questions that follow to explore how language, tone, and persuasive techniques inspire patriotism and unity.

**Excerpt:** "This flag, which we honor and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours. It floats in majestic silence above the hosts that execute those choices, whether in peace or in war. And yet, though silent, it speaks to us—speaks to us of the past, of the men and women who went before us, and of the records they wrote upon it."

### Questions

1. What **emotion** is Wilson trying to evoke in his audience through his description of the flag?
2. Identify one **persuasive device** (such as repetition, imagery, or personification) used in the passage. Explain its effect.
3. What does Wilson mean when he says, "It has no other character than that which we give it"?
4. Describe the **tone** of the passage in one word. Explain how specific words or phrases create that tone.
5. How does Wilson connect the flag's symbolism to the actions of everyday Americans?
6. **Critical Thinking:** Why might this message have been especially powerful in 1916, during a time of global conflict?
7. **Extension Prompt:** Rewrite one sentence from the passage in your own words while keeping the same meaning and feeling.