

Name _____

Hidden Shine Answer Key

Student paragraphs should demonstrate that:

- "Gilded" means covered in a thin layer of gold, suggesting wealth on the surface but serious issues underneath
- Wealthy industrialists grew rich while workers lived in poverty
- Corruption existed in government (e.g., political machines like Tammany Hall)
- Poor working and living conditions, child labor, overcrowded cities
- Growing inequality between rich and poor

A strong response includes:

- Clear explanation of the metaphor
- At least two accurate historical examples
- Full, complete sentences and evidence of understanding

Teacher's Guide

- Show a brief image comparison: wealthy mansions vs. urban tenements
- Discuss the meaning of "gilded" before reading the quote
- Model a paragraph outline with claim, evidence, and explanation

Differentiation:

- Provide sentence starters such as:
"Twain used the word 'gilded' because..."
"One major problem during this time was..."
- Allow brainstorming with partners before writing
- Challenge advanced writers to include a concluding sentence connecting to democratic values

Extension Ideas:

- Students design a political cartoon showing glitter vs. reality
- Compare perspectives: industrial tycoon, reformer, worker
- Use a quick exit ticket: "One thing that looks 'gilded' in our world today is..."