

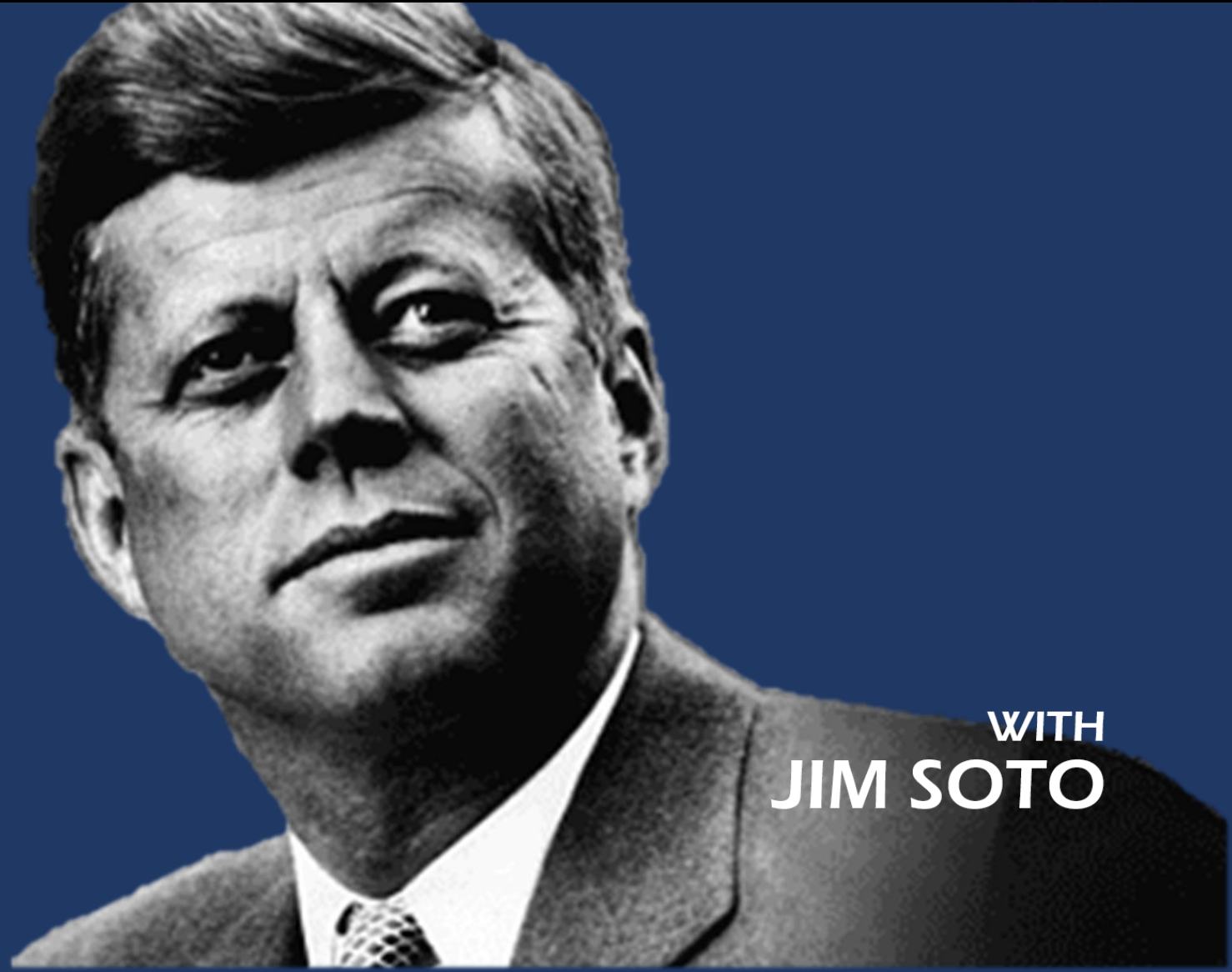
**UNIT 8 Social Transitions**  
**Early Contemporary Era 1960 to 1980**

A STEIN SCHOOL  
**FROEBEL**  
**BILINGUAL SCHOOL**  
Home of the Space Generation



# **JFK**

## **Inaugural Address**



**WITH  
JIM SOTO**

# SPEAK YOUR MIND

“Man holds in his mortal hands the power  
to abolish all forms of human poverty  
and all forms of human life.”

—JOHN F. KENNEDY

Imagine that you are in Washington, D.C., on a bitterly cold day in January 1961, listening to John F. Kennedy take the presidential oath of office. What social, historical, and political differences between then and now can you identify?

Take a minute to consider and answer the question.

## SPEAK

When **John F. Kennedy** was elected President of the United States, he succeeded Dwight D. Eisenhower, a much-decorated World War II general. At the time of Kennedy's election, in November 1960, the nation was mostly peaceful and prosperous. Tensions existed, however, between North America and Western Europe, on one hand, and the communist-led Soviet Union and other Eastern European nations, on the other.





In his Inaugural Address, delivered on January 20, 1961, Kennedy spoke of the international conflicts and set the goals of his new administration. He also sought to establish himself as a forceful leader who, despite his youthful charm, could assert himself with the nation's adversaries in Moscow. If you had listened to the Inaugural Address on January 20, 1961, what elements of the speech would have impressed you the most?

**John F. Kennedy**, the first Roman Catholic president of the United States, sparked the idealism of “a new generation of Americans” with his charm and optimism, championed the **U.S. space program**, and showed cool dynamic leadership during the **Cuban missile crisis**. The president also created the **Peace Corps**, an agency that sent Americans to Third world nations to teach, and he promoted civil rights legislation. on November 22, 1963, after less than three years in office, Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. His body lies in Arlington National Cemetery.



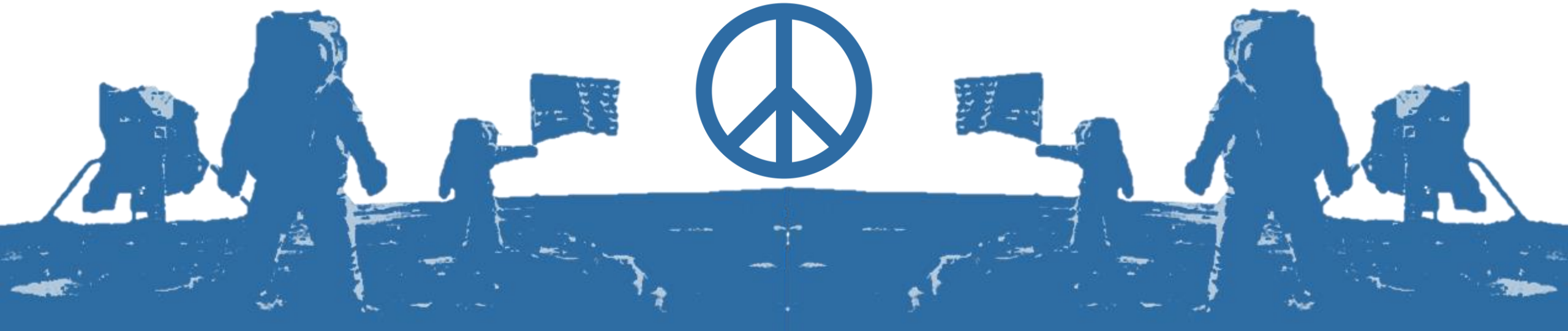
# LITERARY ELEMENTS

## Purpose

Is speaker's goal. A work may have one or more of the following purposes: to inform, to describe, to persuade, and to narrate.

## Repetition

Is the writer's intentional reuse of a sound, word, phrase, or sentence. It creates an emphasis.





Kennedy's inaugural is generally considered one of his most inspiring speeches and one of the most noted inaugural addresses. As you read it, determine what his chief purposes were in speaking to Americans and to the world. In addition, look for examples of Kennedy's oratorical style, such as his use of repetition.

# ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 719-724 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
  - **Purpose and Repetition** - What major purposes does Kennedy have in this speech? How well did he achieve them? Discuss which of these purposes seem aimed at his American audience and which seem aimed at his world audience.
  - In which passages does Kennedy use repetition to emphasize ideas or to provide unity? How effective are these passages? Why is repetition an effective oratorical technique?





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