Directions: Read the selections from "Speech to the Troops at Tilbury" and "The Golden Speech." Then answer the questions that follow.

My loving people,

We have been persuaded by some that are careful of our safety, to take heed how we commit our selves to armed multitudes, for fear of treachery; but I assure you I do not desire to live to distrust my faithful and loving people. Let tyrants fear, I have always so behaved myself that, under God, I have placed my chiefest strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and good-will of my subjects; and therefore I am come amongst you, as you see, at this time, not for my recreation and disport, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of the battle, to live and die amongst you all; to lay down for my God, and for my kingdom, and my people, my honour and my blood, even in the dust. I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field.

—Queen Elizabeth I, from “Speech to the Troops at Tilbury,” 1588
There is no jewel, be it of never so rich a price, which I set before this jewel: I mean your love. For I do esteem it more than any treasure of riches; for that we know how to prize, but love and thanks I count invaluable. . . . I have ever used to set the Last Judgement Day before mine eyes and so to rule as I shall be judged to answer before a higher judge, and now if my kingly bounties have been abused and my grants turned to the hurt of my people contrary to my will and meaning, and if any in authority under me have neglected or perverted what I have committed to them, I hope God will not lay their culps [wrongs] and offenses in my charge. I know the title of a King is a glorious title, but assure yourself that the shining glory of princely authority hath not so dazzled the eyes of our understanding, but that we well know and remember that we also are to yield an account of our actions before the great judge. . . . For myself I was never so much enticed with the glorious name of a King or royal authority of a Queen as delighted that God hath made me his instrument to maintain his truth and glory and to defend his kingdom as I said from peril, dishonour, tyranny, and oppression. There will never Queen sit in my seat with more zeal to my country, care to my subjects and that will sooner with willingness venture her life for your good and safety than myself. For it is my desire to live nor reign no longer than my life and reign shall be for your good. And though you have had, and may have, many princes more mighty and wise sitting in this seat, yet you never had nor shall have, any that will be more careful and loving.

—Queen Elizabeth I, from “The Golden Speech,” 1601

1. **Analyzing Information** In “Speech to the Troops at Tilbury,” what qualities of leadership do you think Queen Elizabeth I displays?

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2. **Analyzing Information** How does Elizabeth assert her royal authority in this speech? How did Elizabeth’s choice of clothing underscore her declarations?

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3. **Drawing Conclusions** How did the defeat of the Spanish Armada help solidify England’s position as leader of European Protestant nations?

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4. **Interpreting Significance** In “The Golden Speech” to Parliament, why do you think Elizabeth begins with the metaphor of the jewel?

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5. **Identifying Central Issues** How do Elizabeth’s references to God serve her purpose in this speech?

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