



# By the Waters of Babylon

FICTION SELECTION  
Unit 1, Part 1, Grade 10

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## Preparing to Read

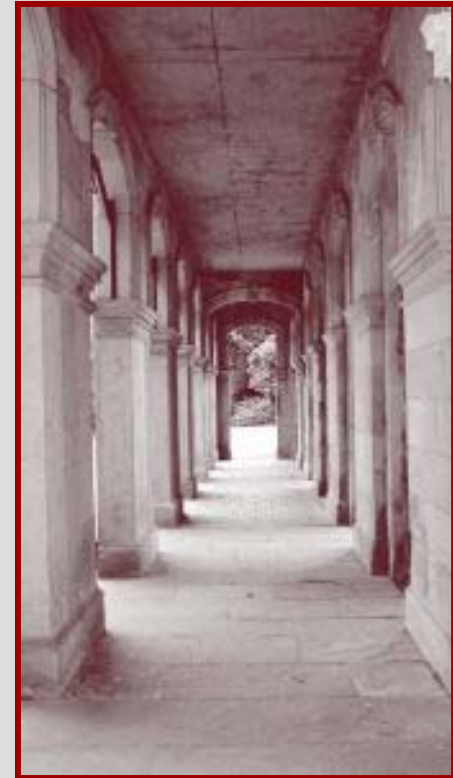
# Connect to Your Life

- Think about the events that mark the passage from childhood to adulthood in your own life.
  - Are you considered an adult upon graduating from high school?
  - Are there cultural or religious rituals that mark this important transition?
- What rites of passage have you experienced?
  - How did you change as a result and what knowledge did you gain?

Preparing to Read

# Build Background

Most cultures have rites of passage to mark the journey from childhood to adulthood, or from one role in life to another.



**Preparing to Read**

# **Build Background**

Commonly, the participants in a rite of passage stop their normal activities, separate from their community in some way, and concentrate on gaining new knowledge or insights to prepare for their new role.



Preparing to Read

# Build Background

When the process is completed, the participants return to society and take up their new role in the community.



## Preparing to Read

# Build Background

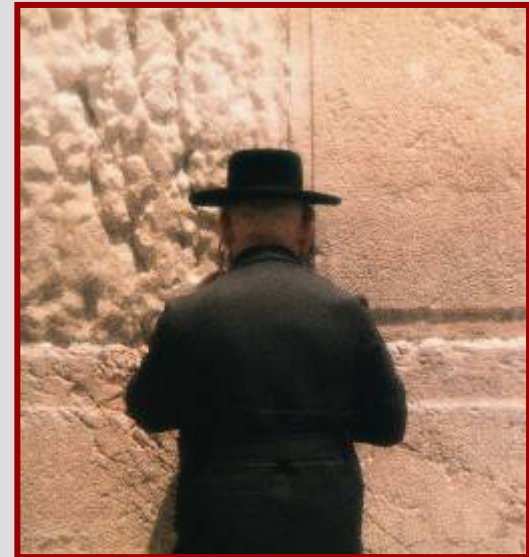
- In the selection you are about to read, John, the main character, goes on a journey that becomes a rite of passage and gives him new knowledge.
- The title of this selection is based upon a passage from Psalm 137:
  - *“By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, when we remembered thee, O Zion.”*

**Preparing to Read**

# **Build Background**

This psalm was composed when Jewish people were enslaved by the Babylonians around 600 B.C.

- The psalm expresses the Jews' longing for their homeland.
- Babylon was the largest city of the ancient world, a center of culture, learning, and world trade.



## Preparing to Read

# Focus Your Reading

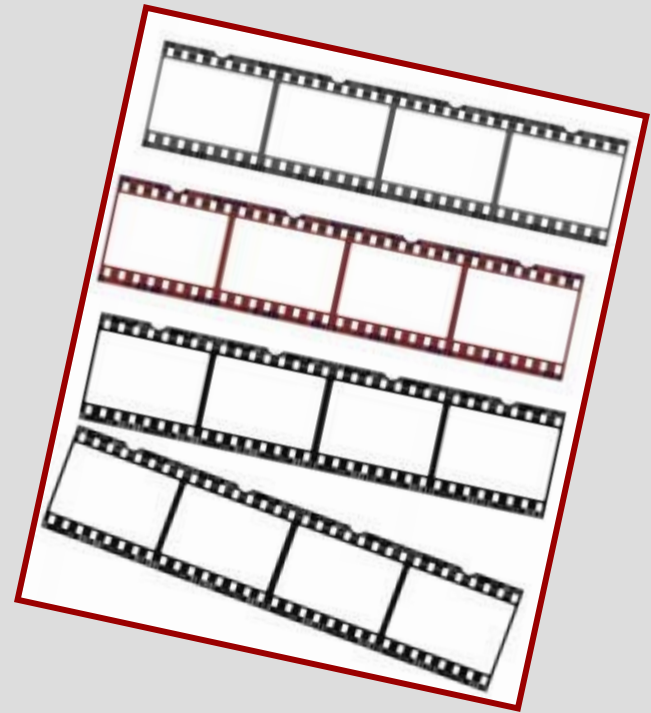
- The **plot** is the chain of related events that take place in a story.
- Usually, the events of a plot progress because of a **conflict**, or struggle between opposing forces.
  - In this selection, the main character decides to take a journey, though, such a journey is against the ancient laws of his people.

Preparing to Read

# Focus Your Reading

In this story, the main events follow **chronological order**; that is, the events are arranged in the order of their occurrence.

- As you read the story, look for signal words and phrases, such as *after a time*, *then*, and *when*, that mark the order of events.

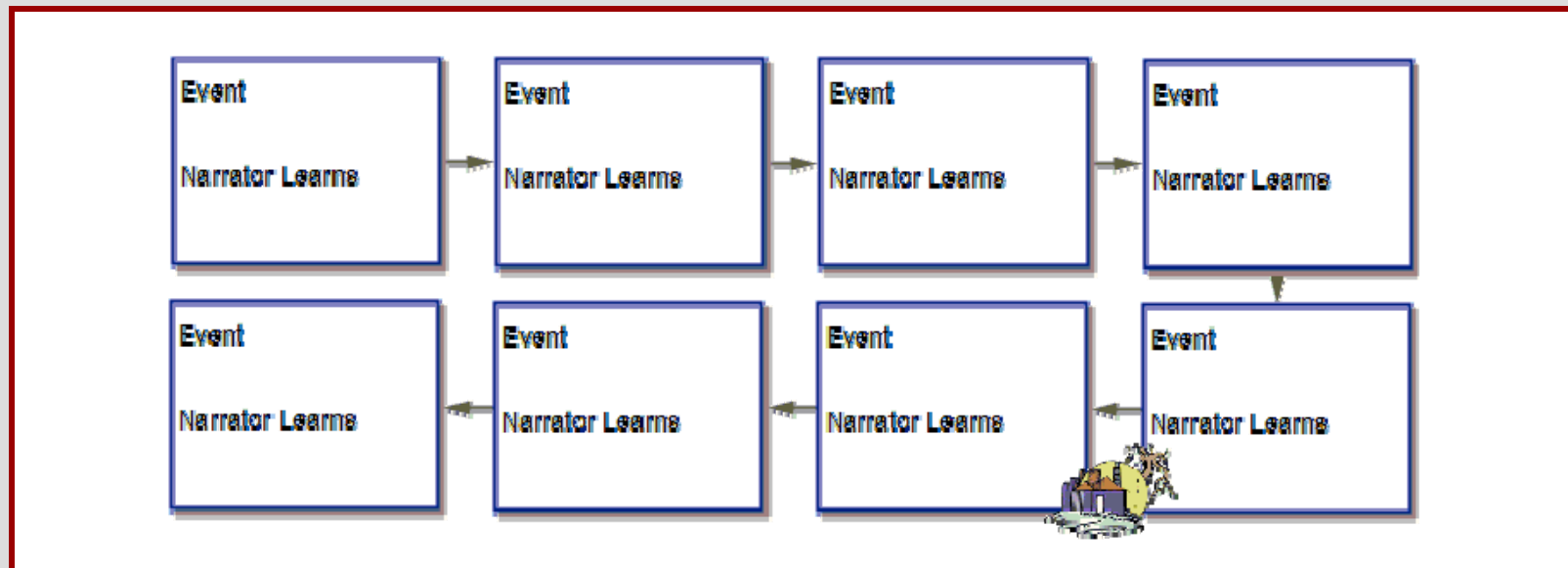


## Preparing to Read

# Focus Your Reading

## Reader's Notebook

- Create a chart to keep track of important events.



# Reading and Analyzing

## Active Reading

### Sequence

- What are some words and phrases that signal the order of events?
- Make a list of these and refer back to them as you read.



# Reading and Analyzing Literary Analysis

## Conflict

- Plot, a chain of related events in a story, may be advanced by either **external** or **internal conflict**.
  - » External conflict is a struggle between a character and an outside force, such as society, nature, or another character.
  - » Internal conflict is a struggle within a character's mind and it may occur when the character has to make a difficult decision or deal with opposing feelings.

# Reading and Analyzing Literary Analysis

## Plot

- Most plots include an exposition, which lays the groundwork for the plot and gives the reader necessary background information.
- What have you learned so far about the narrator and his way of life?



## Reading and Analyzing **Literary Analysis**

### Point of View

- A first-person narrative is told from the point of view of one of the characters involved in the story.
- What effect does the first-person point of view and John's song of this story have on the reader?

## Reading and Analyzing

# Reading Skills and Analysis

- Predicting
  - How will John's journey affect his understanding of his people's stories and legends?
- Clarifying
  - Use the details in this paragraph to explain the Place of the Gods.



# Reading and Analyzing Literary Analysis

## Foreshadowing

- Listen as I read the following “The wild dogs are more dangerous, for they hunt in a pack, but them I did not meet till later.”
- How does this advance the plot?



## Reading and Analyzing **Literary Analysis**

- Point of View
  - How is the first-person point of view important to this passage?
- Plot
  - John journeys out of his body and sees the Place of the Gods as it was in the past, before and during the Great Burning.
    - » How does this vision advance the plot?

# Reading and Analyzing **Active Reading**

## Sequence

- Describe, in chronological order, the Great Burning and the Destruction.



# Reading and Analyzing **Literary Analysis**

## Author's Purpose

- Why do you think Benet wrote about a great annihilation similar to a nuclear holocaust?

