

Spiritual and Devotional Writings

from *The Pilgrim's Progress*

Allegory by John Bunyan



READING 5B Analyze the moral dilemmas and quandaries presented in works of fiction as revealed by the underlying motivations and behaviors of the characters. **8** Analyze the consistency and clarity of the expression of the controlling idea and the ways in which the organizational and rhetorical patterns of text support or confound the author's meaning or purpose.

DID YOU KNOW?

John Bunyan . . .

- wrote much of *The Pilgrim's Progress* in jail, using paper covers from milk bottles.
- presided over a congregation of 3,000 to 4,000 people in his last years.
- inspired the name of a famous 19th-century English novel and a popular American magazine.

Meet the Author

John Bunyan 1628–1688

John Bunyan's Christian allegory, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, is one of the most famous and widely read books in English literature. Since its original publication in 1678, the work has been consistently in print. It has also been translated into more than 100 different languages.

An Uncommon Commoner John Bunyan was born in Elstow, Bedfordshire, England. He grew up poor and attended a local school, where he learned to read and write. When Bunyan came of age he joined his father in his tinkering trade and traveled the countryside repairing pots and pans. At 16, Bunyan joined Oliver Cromwell's Parliamentary army to fight against the Royalists in the English Civil War. It is likely that he received his first exposure to Puritan thought and teachings during his military service.

Tempted By Satan Following his discharge from the army, Bunyan married a devoutly religious woman and began taking a deeper interest in religion. He attended church regularly and spent long hours reading theological literature.

Bunyan underwent a long spiritual struggle during which, according to his memoir, Satan continually tempted him to betray his Christian beliefs. Eventually, with the guidance of the charismatic

Calvinist preacher John Gifford, Bunyan "experienced God's light." Soon Bunyan himself took to the pulpit and began preaching as a nonconformist minister in various towns in Bedfordshire.

A Prisoner's Progress When the monarchy was restored in 1660, Charles II sought to suppress religious dissent. Bunyan was imprisoned for "pertinaciously abstaining" from attending Church of England services and for holding "unlawful meetings." He was jailed twice, for a total of nearly 12 years. While in prison, Bunyan wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress*, which recounts the allegorical journey to salvation of an ordinary man named Christian. The direct, vivid style and the sense of spiritual urgency made the work an instant success. It was so popular, in fact, that six years later Bunyan wrote a second part to *The Pilgrim's Progress* in which Christian's wife and children set out on a similar journey.

The First Bestseller *The Pilgrim's Progress* was truly the first bestselling fiction written in English. Printed on inexpensive paper, it was quite affordable, and 100,000 copies were sold before Bunyan's death. Even in homes where books were a luxury, a copy of *The Pilgrim's Progress* might be found alongside the Bible.

Author Online

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LITERARY ANALYSIS: ALLEGORY

You can enjoy John Bunyan's story for its adventure and you can also read it as an **allegory**, a story with two levels of meaning. The characters, settings, and events of an allegory stand not only for themselves but also for abstract qualities and ideas. Like parables and fables, most allegories convey a specific moral message in the form of a story. *The Pilgrim's Progress* is the best-known allegory in the English language. Christian, the hero, represents those who face moral dilemmas on their way to salvation when they are encouraged by others to embrace the temptations of worldly life and reject a virtuous path. Other allegorical characters include Mr. No-good and Faithful. As you read the selection, use the allegorical elements to help you understand the story's deeper, symbolic meaning.

READING SKILL: UNDERSTAND AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

An author creates a work to achieve a particular **purpose**, or goal. John Bunyan wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress* primarily to persuade readers to follow a Christian way of life. However, a complex work such as this one often fulfills more than one purpose. As you read the selection, fill in a questionnaire like the one shown. Identify passages from the story to support each of your responses.

Question	Answer and Supporting Passage
1. Does the story make you laugh?	
2. Does it contain a lesson about life?	
3. Does it convince you of a particular viewpoint?	
4. Does it move you emotionally?	

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

The following boldfaced words are critical to your understanding of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Use context clues to help you understand the meaning of each term.

1. **enmity** toward an enemy
2. dressed in satin **raiment**
3. **implacable** rules
4. the **vanity** of earthly wishes
5. the **celestial** kingdom in the sky
6. an evil **heretic** of the church
7. a brief **respite** from travel
8. to **transfigure** into angels



Complete the activities in your Reader/Writer Notebook.

How can we resist TEMPTATION?

Temptation comes in many forms: a free concert, a favorite television show, even a leftover piece of chocolate cake. Situations like these can lead us off course and away from our intended goals. So how can we resist indulging?

QUICKWRITE Think of a goal that you worked hard to achieve. What obstacles did you encounter along the way? Describe the steps you took to "keep your eyes on the prize."



THE Pilgrim's Progress

John Bunyan

BACKGROUND *The Pilgrim's Progress* is told as if it were a story dreamt by the narrator. The hero is a devout wanderer named Christian who has fled his home in the City of Destruction because of its corruption. He sets off on a pilgrimage to the Celestial City, where he hopes to receive God's eternal blessing. On his journey he encounters allegorical characters with names such as Hypocrisy and Mistrust, who personify obstacles to salvation. Christian must also negotiate places—such as the Slough of Despond and Difficulty Hill—that tempt him to abandon his quest. In the excerpt that follows, Christian and another pilgrim, Faithful, come upon Vanity Fair, a veritable marketplace of sin and depravity.

Analyze Visuals ►

Examine the composition of this image. How does the arrangement of figures help convey a sense of danger?

Then I saw in my dream that when they were got out of the wilderness, they presently saw a town before them, and the name of that Town is **Vanity**; and at the town there is a fair kept called Vanity Fair. It is kept all the year long; it beareth the name of Vanity Fair, because the town where 'tis kept is lighter than vanity, and also because all that is there sold or that cometh thither is Vanity. As is the saying of the wise, "All that cometh is vanity."

This fair is no new erected business, but a thing of ancient standing; I will show you the original of it.

Almost five thousand years ago, there were pilgrims walking to the **Celestial** City, as these two honest persons are; and Beelzebub, Apollyon, and Legion, with their companions, perceiving by the path that the pilgrims made that their way to the city lay through this town of Vanity, they contrived here to set up a fair, a fair wherein should be sold of all sorts of vanity and that it should last all the year long. Therefore at this fair are all such merchandise sold, as houses, lands, trades, places, honors, preferments, titles, countries, kingdoms, lusts, pleasures, and delights of all sorts, as whores, bawds, wives, husbands, children, masters, servants, lives, blood, bodies, souls, silver, gold, pearls, precious stones, and what not.

And, moreover, at this fair there is at all times to be seen jugglings, cheats, 20 games, plays, fools, apes, knaves, and rogues, and that of all sorts. **A**

vanity (văn'ĩ-tē) *n.* that which is without meaning or value; emptiness; worthlessness

celestial (sə-lēs'chəl) *adj.* heavenly; divine

10–11 Beelzebub (bē-ěl'zə-bŭb')
... **Legion**: devils or demons mentioned in the Bible.

15 preferments: appointments and promotions to political or church positions.

A ALLEGORY

Reread lines 1–20. In a few words, describe the people and activities of Vanity Fair. What symbolic meaning might this place have?



Here are to be seen, too, and that for nothing, thefts, murders, adulteries, false swearers, and that of a blood-red color.

And as in other fairs of less moment, there are the several rows and streets under their proper names, where such and such wares are vended. So here likewise, you have the proper places, rows, streets (*viz.* countries and kingdoms), where the wares of this fair are soonest to be found. Here is the Britain Row, the French Row, the Italian Row, the Spanish Row, the German Row, where several sorts of vanities are to be sold. But as in other fairs, some one commodity is as the chief of all the fair, so the ware of Rome and her
30 merchandise is greatly promoted in this fair. Only our English nation, with some others, have taken a dislike thereat. **B**

Now, as I said, the way to the Celestial City lies just through this town, where this lusty fair is kept, and he that will go to the city, and yet not go through this town, must needs “go out of the world.” The Prince of Princes himself, when here, went through this town to his own country and that upon a fair day, too. Yea, and as I think it was Beelzebub, the chief lord of this fair, that invited him to buy of his vanities; yea, would have made him lord of the fair would he but have done him reverence as he went through the town. Yea, because he was such a person of honor, Beelzebub had him
40 from street to street and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a little time that he might, if possible, allure that Blessed One to cheapen and buy some of his vanities. But he had no mind to the merchandise and therefore left the town, without laying out so much as one farthing upon these vanities. This fair therefore is an ancient thing, of long standing, and a very great fair.

Now these pilgrims, as I said, must needs go through this fair. Well, so they did, but behold, even as they entered into the fair, all the people in the fair were moved and the town itself as it were in a hubbub about them, and that for several reasons; for,

50 First, the pilgrims were clothed with such kind of **raiment** as was diverse from the raiment of any that traded in that fair. The people therefore of the fair made a great gazing upon them. Some said they were fools, some they were bedlams, and some they are outlandish men.

Secondly, and as they wondered at their apparel, so they did likewise at their speech, for few could understand what they said. They naturally spoke the language of Canaan, but they that kept the fair were the men of this world. So that from one end of the fair to the other, they seemed barbarians each to the other.

Thirdly, but that which did not a little amuse the merchandisers was that
60 these pilgrims set very light by all their wares; they cared not so much as to look upon them, and if they called upon them to buy, they would put their fingers in their ears and cry, “Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity,” and look upwards, signifying that their trade and traffic was in heaven.

One chanced mockingly, beholding the carriages of the men, to say unto them, “What will ye buy?” But they, looking gravely upon him, said, “We buy the truth.” At that, there was an occasion taken to despise the men the

29 Rome: the Roman Catholic Church, which England has broken from and which Protestants like Bunyan viewed with contempt and suspicion in this era of religious warfare.

B AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Reread lines 23–31, using the side note on the page. Whom or what is Bunyan poking fun at? Explain the purpose this criticism might serve.

41 cheapen: barter or trade for; ask the price of.

Language Coach

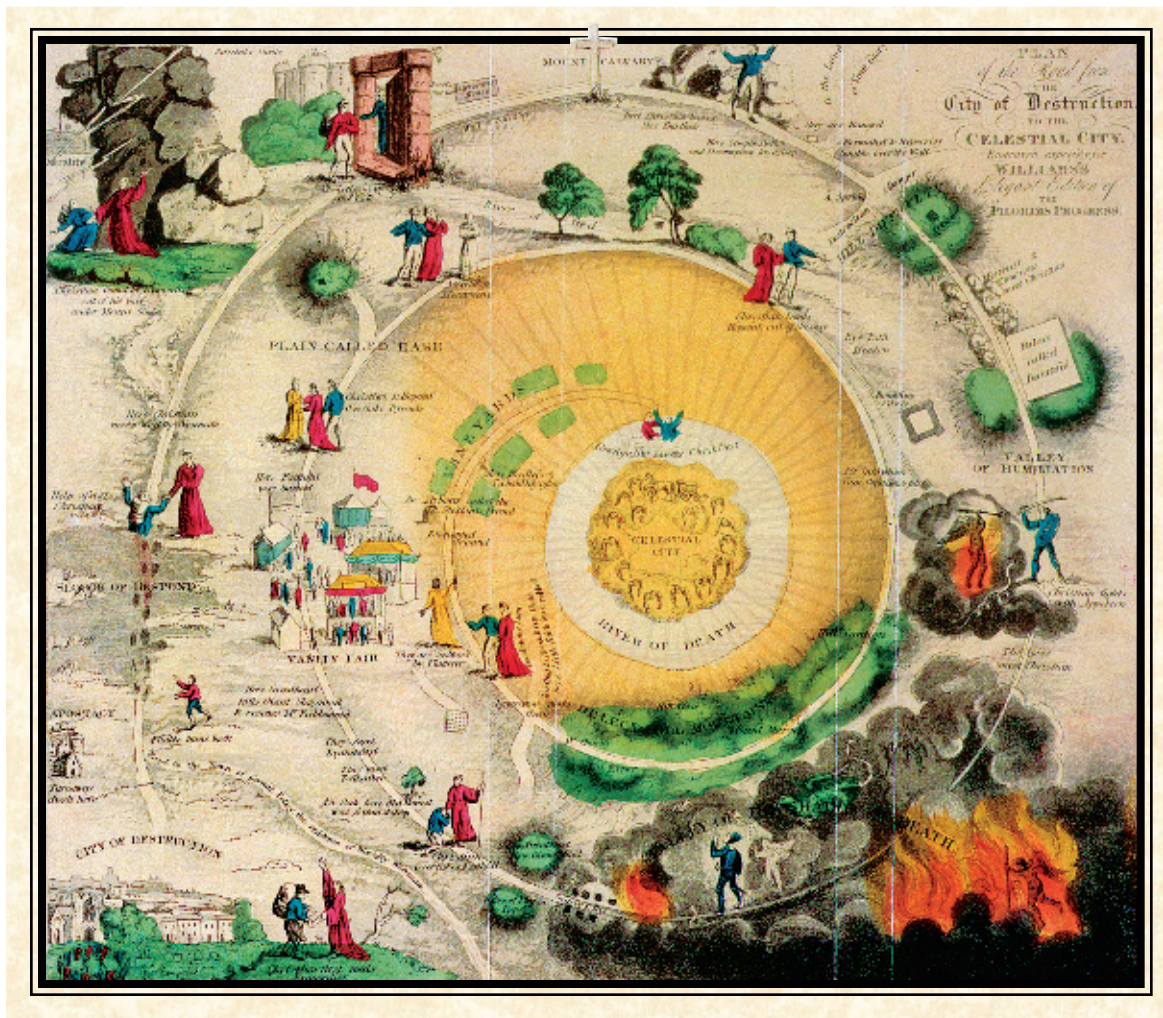
Roots and Affixes The word *vanities* (lines 37, 42, and 44) comes from the Latin *vanus* (“empty”). Can you guess *vanities*’ meaning?

raiment (rā’mənt) *n.* clothing

52–53 some they were bedlams . . . men: Some said they were lunatics, and some said they were foreign. Bethlehem Hospital, shortened to *Bethlem* or *Bedlam*, was the London insane asylum.

56–57 language . . . barbarians (bār-bār’ē-ənz): Christian and Faithful speak the language of the Bible, but those at the fair speak a variety of languages and are foreigners to each other.

64 carriages: the way the men carried themselves; the men’s actions or behavior.



Plan of the road from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City (1800s). Engraved expressly for Williams's Elegant Edition of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Private collection. © Bridgeman Art Library.

more; some mocking, some taunting, some speaking reproachfully, and some calling upon others to smite them. At last things came to an hubbub, and great stir in the fair, insomuch that all order was confounded. Now was word
 70 presently brought to the great one of the fair, who quickly came down and deputed some of his most trusty friends to take these men into examination, about whom the fair was almost overturned. . . . **C**

Suspicious of Christian and Faithful, the angry merchandisers at Vanity Fair arrest the pilgrims and bring them to trial. Three witnesses—Envy, Superstition, and Pick-thank—testify against Faithful. A jury of townspeople decides his fate.

Then went the jury out, whose names were Mr. Blind-man, Mr. No-good, Mr. Malice, Mr. Love-lust, Mr. Live-loose, Mr. Heady, Mr. High-mind, Mr. **Enmity**, Mr. Liar, Mr. Cruelty, Mr. Hate-light, and Mr. **Implacable**, who everyone gave in his private verdict against him among themselves, and afterwards unanimously concluded to bring him in guilty before the judge. And first Mr. Blind-man, the foreman, said, “I see clearly that this man is

C AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Reread lines 46–72, and **summarize** the three reasons the merchandisers are surprised by Christian and Faithful. Does this episode make you laugh? Why, or why not?

enmity (ən'mī-tē) *n.* deep-seated hatred

implacable (īm-plāk'ə-bəl) *adj.* unable to be appeased or significantly changed; inflexible; relentless


an **heretic**.” Then said Mr. No-good, “Away with such a fellow from the earth.” “Ay,” said Mr. Malice, “for I hate the very looks of him.” Then said Mr. Love-lust, “I could never endure him.” “Nor I,” said Mr. Live-loose, “for he would always be condemning my way.” “Hang him, hang him,” said Mr. Heady. “A sorry scrub,” said Mr. High-mind. “My heart riseth against him,” said Mr. Enmity. “He is a rogue,” said Mr. Liar. “Hanging is too good for him,” said Mr. Cruelty. “Let’s dispatch him out of the way,” said Mr. Hate-light. Then said Mr. Implacable, “Might I have all the world given me, I could not be reconciled to him; therefore let us forthwith bring him in guilty of death.” And so they did; therefore he was presently condemned, to be had from the place where he was to the place from whence he came, and there to be put to the most cruel death that could be invented. **D**

They therefore brought him out to do with him according to their law; and first they scourged him, then they buffeted him, then they lanced his flesh with knives; after that they stoned him with stones, then pricked him with their swords, and last of all they burned him to ashes at the stake. Thus came Faithful to his end. Now, I saw that there stood behind the multitude a chariot and a couple of horses, waiting for Faithful, who (so soon as his adversaries had dispatched him) was taken up into it, and straightway was carried up through the clouds, with sound of trumpet, the nearest way to the Celestial Gate. But as for Christian, he had some **respite**, and was remanded back to prison; so he there remained for a space. But he that overrules all things, having the power of their rage in his own hand, so wrought it about that Christian for that time escaped them, and went his way. . . .

Christian continues on his journey and encounters another pilgrim, Hopeful. After more difficulties, the two arrive at their long-awaited destination: the Gates of the Celestial City.

Now I saw in my dream that these two men went in at the gate; and lo, as they entered, they were **transfigured**, and they had raiment put on that shone like gold. There was also that met them with harps and crowns and gave them to them, the harp to praise withal and the crowns in token of honor. Then I heard in my dream that all the bells in the city rang again for joy, and that it was said unto them, “Enter ye into the joy of your Lord.” I also heard the men themselves that they sang with a loud voice, saying, “Blessing, honor, glory, and power, be to Him that sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever.”

Now just as the gates were opened to let in the men, I looked in after them; and behold, the city shone like the sun, the streets also were paved with gold, and in them walked many men, with crowns on their heads, palms in their hands, and golden harps to sing praises withal.

There were also of them that had wings, and they answered one another without intermission, saying, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord.” And after that, they shut up the gates. Which when I had seen, I wished myself among them.  **E**

heretic (hěŕ’ĭ-tĭk) *n.* someone who expresses beliefs that oppose church teachings or established views

D ALLEGORY

Reread lines 73–90. Identify several allegorical characters and describe their attitude toward Faithful.

92 first they scourged . . . buffeted him: First they whipped him and then they beat him.

respite (rĕs’pĭt) *n.* an interval of temporary relief; a delay or postponement

transfigure (trăns-fĭg’yər) *v.* to transform, especially in a way that exalts or glorifies

E AUTHOR’S PURPOSE

In lines 103–119, Bunyan presents Christian and Hopeful reaching their final destination, the Celestial City. What emotional effect, if any, does this episode create?

Comprehension

1. **Recall** Why do the pilgrims have to pass through the town of Vanity?
2. **Recall** How do the merchandisers react to the pilgrims at the fair?
3. **Summarize** Describe what happens to Faithful after the jury reaches its verdict.

Literary Analysis

4. **Understand Author's Purpose** Bunyan wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress* mainly to persuade readers to lead principled lives. Review the questionnaire you filled in as you read. In your opinion, what were Bunyan's other purposes in telling this story? Cite evidence to support your answer.
5. **Compare and Contrast Characters** What **character traits**, or consistent qualities, distinguish the pilgrims from the merchandisers?
6. **Examine Tone** In literature, **tone** is the attitude a writer takes toward a subject or character. What is Bunyan's tone in the scenes of Faithful's trial (lines 73–90) and the pilgrims' arrival at the Celestial City (lines 103–119)? Give specific words and phrases to support your answers.
7. **Draw Conclusions** Reread lines 91–102. Does Bunyan view Faithful's death as a loss or a victory? Support your conclusion with evidence from the text.
8. **Analyze Allegory** Using a chart like the one below, identify a possible symbolic meaning for each character or place. Include details from the story to support your interpretation. Based on your answers, what lesson about **temptation** does Bunyan's allegory convey?

	Possible Meaning	Supporting Details
Christian	<i>all people</i>	
Faithful		
Vanity Fair		
Jury Members		
Celestial City		

Literary Criticism

9. **Social Context** What does *The Pilgrim's Progress* say about the way society treats the quest for virtue? Cite evidence to support your claim.

How can we resist **TEMPTATION**?

Advertisers often lure buyers by tempting them. What do advertisers do to make their products tempting?



READING 5B Analyze the moral dilemmas and quandaries presented in works of fiction as revealed by the underlying motivations and behaviors of the characters.
8 Analyze the consistency and clarity of the expression of the controlling idea and the ways in which the organizational and rhetorical patterns of text support or confound the author's meaning or purpose.

Vocabulary in Context

▲ VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Choose the vocabulary word that best completes each sentence. Use the context clues in the sentence to help you decide.

1. We need a _____ from his constant complaining.
2. A new spiritual awareness may _____ a person.
3. Those attending the queen's court dressed in fine _____.
4. She was branded a _____ for stating controversial views.
5. The man's scowl and narrowed eyes revealed dark feelings of _____.
6. He was _____ in his resolve, refusing to change his mind even when the facts suggested that he should.
7. The Bible warns us against the _____ of worldly concerns.
8. Angels dwell in a _____ realm, far from earthly strife.

WORD LIST

celestial
enmity
heretic
implacable
raiment
respite
transfigure
vanity

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY IN WRITING

• attribute • feature • monitor • phase • primary

In a paragraph, describe the **primary features** of a contemporary open-air market or mall. How does a contemporary market or mall compare with Bunyan's Vanity Fair? Use at least one Academic Vocabulary word in your response.

VOCABULARY STRATEGY: THE LATIN PREFIX *trans-*

Many English words and word parts come from Latin. The Latin prefix *trans-*, for example, occurs in the word *transfigured* in *The Pilgrim's Progress* (page 510). *Trans-* can mean "over or across," "change," or "above and beyond." *Transfigure* means "change so as to exalt or glorify." Understanding the meaning of common Latin prefixes like *trans-* can help you figure out the meaning of words from many different disciplines, from biology and mathematics to psychology and geography.

PRACTICE Use context clues and your knowledge of word parts to explain the meaning of each boldfaced word. Then check your answers in the dictionary.

1. Upon its completion in 1869, the first **transcontinental** railway in the United States allowed passengers to travel from the eastern seaboard to California.
2. To develop **transference**, the psychologist encouraged her patient to think of her as a blank screen on which to project his feelings about his mother.
3. The choir conductor **transposed** the hymn into a higher key for the young singers.
4. Because of the extreme heat, the **transpiration** rate in the crops increased, requiring more irrigation.



READING 1A Determine the meaning of technical academic English words in multiple content areas derived from Latin affixes.

Interactive
Vocabulary



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Spiritual and Moral Beliefs

This period in British history was one of religious turmoil, beginning with Henry VIII's break from the Roman Catholic Church and subsequent formation of the Church of England, to his daughter "Bloody Mary's" persecution of Protestants, to Elizabeth I's execution of her Catholic cousin Mary, to the Puritan revolt against the monarchy. Yet amid all of this fighting, England remained a Christian nation whose people shared certain core beliefs.

Queen Elizabeth herself remarked upon the faith that united the people of England and Christian Europe despite the bitter conflicts between Catholics and Protestants.

"If there were two princes in Christendom who had good will and courage, it would be very easy to reconcile the religious difficulties; there is only one Jesus Christ and one faith, and all the rest is a dispute over trifles."

Writing to Synthesize

Based on the spiritual and devotional writings you read on pages 482–510, identify some of the core beliefs shared by England's citizens. Review the selections and make a list of phrases or passages that impart spiritual beliefs or moral lessons. Use these quotations to write one to three paragraphs in which you synthesize the core beliefs that emerge from these works.

Consider

- moral lessons found in the biblical selections
- the meaning of the final sestet in each of Milton's sonnets
- themes of pride, free will, and responsibility in *Paradise Lost*
- allegorical characters and place names in *The Pilgrim's Progress*

Your paragraphs should be well organized and include a clear thesis statement that expresses your opinion. Be sure to include relevant evidence and well-chosen details from the text to support your synthesis.

Extension

VIEWING & REPRESENTING

Traditionally, the stained glass windows that were installed in many churches depicted saints or scenes from the Bible—a benefit for a mostly illiterate churchgoing population. Choose one of the selections from this section, and plan a **stained glass window** to illustrate it. Be sure to choose a particularly vivid image or scene to depict. Write a brief explanation of your plan, telling why you chose the scene you did.



WRITING 15A Write an analytical essay.