Directions: Imperialism was fed by an attitude of superiority of a country towards their colony. “The White Man’s Burden” was written in 1899 by a British poet in response to the American take over of the Philippines after the Spanish-American War. Read the poem, circling unfamiliar words and summarizing as you go.

**“The White Man’s Burden”**

By Rudyard Kipling

Take up the White Man’s burden –

Send for the best ye breed –

Go bind your sons to exile

To serve your captive’s need;

To wait in heavy harness,

On fluttered folk and wild –

Your new-caught, sullen peoples,

Half-devil and half-child…

Take up the White Man’s Burden –

The savage wars of peace –

Fill full the mouth of Famine

And bid the sickness cease;

And when your goal is nearest

The end for others sought,

Watch sloth and heathen Folly

Bring all your hopes to naught.

Take up the White Man’s Burden ---

No tawdry rule of kings,

But toil of serf and sweeper –

The tale of common things.

The ports ye shall not enter,

The roads ye shall not tread,

Go mark them with your living,

And mark them with your dead.

Take up the White Man’s burden ---

And reap his old reward:

The blame of those ye better,

The hate of those ye guard ---

The cry of hosts ye humour

(Ah, slowly!) toward the light: ---

“Why brought he us from bondage,

Our loved Egyptian night?”

Take up the White Man’s burden ---

Ye dare not stoop to less ---

Nor call too loud on Freedom

To cloke your weariness;

By all ye cry or whisper,

By all ye leae or do,

The silent, sullen peoples

Shall weigh your gods and you.

Take up the White Man’s burden ---

Have done with childish days ---

The lightly proferred laurel,

The easy, ungrudged praise.

Comes now, to search your manhood

Through all the thankless years

Cold, edged with dear-bought wisdom,

The judgment of your peers!

**Questions**

1) What, according to Kipling, is the “White Man’s Burden?”

2) What was the exile of which Kipling speaks?

3) According to Kipling, what is impact of imperialism upon the people in European colonies?

4) According to Kipling, what role do the people native to Asia and African play in their countries’ improvement?

**Thesis exploration**

5) Using your answers to the above, compose a thesis statement from Kipling’s point of view about imperialism in Asia and Africa.

5) Using your knowledge of Africa before European imperialism, defend or refute the above thesis statement with a thesis of your own.