

ÉPREUVE DE LEÇON

Première partie :

Vous procéderez à la présentation, à l'étude et à la mise en relation des trois documents proposés (A, B et C, non hiérarchisés).

Seconde partie :

Cette partie de l'épreuve porte sur le document A et sur le document C.

À partir de ces supports, vous définirez des objectifs communicationnels, culturels et linguistiques pouvant être retenus dans une séquence pédagogique au palier 2 du collège, en vous référant aux programmes. En vous appuyant sur la spécificité de ces supports, vous dégagerez des stratégies pour développer les compétences de communication des élèves.

Bison Crossing Near Mt. Rushmore

There is our herd of cars stopped,
staring respectfully at the line of bison crossing.

One big-fronted bull nudges his cow into a run.
She and her calf are first to cross.

5 In swift dignity the dark-coated caravan sweeps through
the gap our cars leave in the two-way stall
on the road to the Presidents.

10 The polygamous bulls guarding their families from the rear,
the honey-brown calves trotting head-to-hip
by their mothers—who are lean and muscled as bulls,
with chin tassels and curved horns—
all leap the road like a river, and run.

15 The strong and somber remnant of western freedom
disappears into the rough grass of the draw,
around the point of the mountain.

20 The bison, orderly, disciplined by the prophet-faced,
heavy-headed fathers, threading the pass
of our awestruck stationwagons, Airstreams and trailers,
if in dread of us give no sign,
go where their leaders twine them, over the prairie.

And we keep to our line,
staring, stirring, revving idling motors, moving
each behind the other, herdlike, where the highway leads.

May Swenson (1913-1989)
from *Nature: Poems Old and New*, 1994.

Ingenuity

5 *Think of the numberless contrivances and inventions for our comfort and luxury which the last half dozen years have brought forth — of our baths and ice houses and ice coolers — of our fly traps and mosquito nets — of house bells and marble mantels and sliding tables — of patent ink-stands and baby jumpers — of serving machines and street-sweeping machines — in a word, give but a passing glance at the fat volumes of Patent Office Reports and bless your star that fate has cast your lot in the year of our Lord 1857.*

Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

10 There is a widely shared opinion that America led the vanguard of progress in the modern world not only in the political but in the technological field as well. The history of the United States does indeed record an impressive number of technical innovations over a very short period of time. Between 1851 and 1860, for example, an annual average of 2,525 patents were registered. In the century after the creation of the United States Patent Office in 1836 (the earlier patent acts of 1790 and 1793 had proved inadequate), it delivered twice as many patents as its French or English counterparts. A list of the most famous American inventions includes Franklin's stove (1742) and lightning-rod (1752), Eli Whitney's cotton-gin (1793), Fulton's steamboat (1809), McCormick's reaper (1834), Morse's electric telegraph (1837), Goodyear's vulcanizing process for rubber (1839), Howe's sewing-machine (1846), Bell's telephone (1876), Edison's phonograph (1877) and incandescent lamp (1880), Sholes's typewriter (1888) and De Forest's electronic tube (1907).

25 The great era of individual American inventors is said to have ended by about 1900. Still the disproportionate number of United States Nobel prize-winners in the twentieth century testifies to the continuing curiosity and fertility of American scientists. Obviously the priority that New Englanders placed on education gave that region an extraordinary advantage over the other colonies. The term “Yankee” has become a byword for ingenuity. The Yankee has long been known as the tinkerer of genius or mechanical wizard. Not only was New England a land where improvisation was necessary to overcome a harsh climate and a niggardly natural environment ; it is probably also significant that Puritanism always encouraged scientific inquiry: the Puritan divine, Cotton Mather, for instance, was extremely forceful in vindicating smallpox inoculation in the face of strong popular opposition. The diary of Ezra Stiles, an eighteenth-century president of Yale, then a stronghold of Puritan orthodoxy, records conversations and correspondences on scientific and mechanical topics as well as descriptions of experiments he witnessed. The Puritan ethic, with its insistence on industry and its denunciation of idleness as a sin, was a further incentive to turn every single moment of God's precious daylight to profitable use. The self-sufficient New England community also made demands on Yankee ingenuity. Few farms were without their small workshops. Nails, clothes, utensils, tools, implements and even clocks were manufactured on the farm during the long winters and the New England farm came to be known as “the best school of mechanics”. When Francis Lowell introduced the power loom to America in 1814, he found plenty of skilled workmen endowed with “the training of many generations of farmer-mechanics in the workshops of New England”.

Document C

Chris Ware, *Jimmy Corrigan, The Smartest Kid on Earth*, Pantheon Books, 2000.

