

Culture 7 HANDOUT 2: A DIFFERENCE IN PERSPECTIVE

Read each of the quotes below to identify the historical events and circumstances of Kent's time. How do his words illustrate his perspective and his time?

Select a comparable event from your own time. Write a journal entry to describe your perspective on this event — its impact on your life and/or its importance to the world. Will your selected event still be considered important 100 years from now? Why or why not?

Pioneering

(Wilderness, page 16)

I wonder if you can imagine what fun pioneering is. To be in a country where the fairest spot is yours for the wanting it, to cut and build your own home out of the land you stand upon, to plan and create clearings, parks, vistas, and make out of a wilderness an ordered place!

The draft

(Wilderness, page 45)

Tuesday, October Fifteenth

...Today it has rained incessantly. I have bought a few odd supplies and registered for the draft.

War

(Wilderness, page 71)

"The war is over," cried Olson as he landed. By all that's holy in life may the world have found through its mad war at least some fragrance of the peace and freedom that we discovered growing like a flower, wild on the borders of the wilderness.

Influenza

(Wilderness, page 94)

Influenza, I then learned, had raged in Seward, there having been over 350 cases; and smallpox had made a start. But the deaths had been few and it was now well in hand. However, I shunned the hotel.

Seward

(Wilderness, pages 94-95)

The "New York of the Pacific," as it is gloriously acclaimed in the literature of its Chamber of Commerce, numbers its citizens perhaps at half a thousand—the tenacious remnant of the many more who years ago trusted our government to fulfill its promises to really build and operate a railroad into the interior...

Seward is planned for growth and equipped for commerce. Wide avenues and numbered blocks adorn the town-site maps where to the naked eye the land's a wilderness of stumps and briars. The center of the built-up portion of the town, one street of two blocks' length, is modern with electric lights and concrete pavements. The stores are wonderfully good; there are two banks and several small hotels, a baker from Ward's baker in New York and a French barber from the Hotel Buckingham. There's a good grammar school, a hospital, and churches of all sorts...