



## Explore Word Gaps

**Task:** Practice the reading comprehension strategy: “Explore Word Gaps”

**Course Context:** In *Nonfiction Reading Strategies* Rebekah O’Dell shares this inter-disciplinary strategy for vocabulary comprehension in nonfiction texts. Try the “Explore Word Gaps” strategy and see how it impacts *your* reading experience!

**Steps:**

1. Read this powerful excerpt from “[My Dungeon Shook: Letter to My Nephew on the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Emancipation](#)” an essay in James Baldwin’s nonfiction book, *The Fire Next Time*, courtesy of NPR.
2. As you read, collect word gaps in the first column of the table below.
3. Once you’ve finished reading, fill out the rest of the table using the questions to guide you.

<b>Title of Text:</b>		
<p><b>Word Gaps</b> <i>As you read, write down words that you don’t know here:</i></p>	<p><b>Definitions</b> <i>Use a reliable source to define these terms in the context of the reading:</i></p>	<p><b>Patterns</b> <i>As you look at these words, do any topics or ideas connect them? What is the tone of these words?</i></p>
<p>Look at the information you’ve amassed. What do these specific words tell you about what the writer is trying to say about the topic? Explain:</p>		

