

North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un Offers Many Faces, Many Threats

Monday, April 15, 2013 | Ernesto Londoño, The Washington Post | Yonjung Seo of Seoul contributed



When Kim Jong Un first appeared in Pyongyang's carefully stage-managed public spotlight in the fall of 2010, North Korea watchers began scouring for clues to learn whether the pudgy heir apparent would be a reformist or simply the newest face of a despotic regime. Fifteen months after taking the reins of the hermit state following the death of his stoic father, North Korea's 30-year-old leader appears to be careening toward the latter — at least on the surface. Having disavowed his country's armistice with South Korea and threatened to fire his increasingly capable missiles toward the United States, Kim has put the Korean Peninsula and Washington on a war footing. His behavior follows the playbook of his predecessors, with one

notable and potentially dangerous departure that appears to have him backed into a corner.

By declaring war on South Korea, he seems to be channeling his firebrand grandfather, Kim Il Sung, the iconic founder of North Korea who plunged the region into a war that killed as many as 5 million people, including 35,500 American troops, in the 1950s. U.S. officials are on alert for a new provocative act tied to the elder Kim's birthday, which is widely celebrated in North Korea, on Monday. As Kim Jong Un eases into the top job of a nation whose elite has long been presumed to be rife with intrigue and rivalries, he appears determined to assert a tight grip on the levers of power.

Still, during his first months in power, Kim Jong Un took on a highly visible role, a stark change compared with his reclusive father. His status was quickly bolstered with titles that conveyed that Kim was in control of the armed forces and the communist Worker's Party, an ascension to full authority far quicker than his father's. The new leader became a fixture of government propaganda videos, which are aired domestically and uploaded on the Internet. Trained by doting, crusty generals, Kim was shown rallying star-struck troops in the field and planning attacks on the United States in a war room. He also was portrayed as keen to show a different side of his country, which is notorious for its brutal labor camps and millions of malnourished citizens. The gregarious statesman was shown touring improbably modern venues in Pyongyang, including a fitness center and a lavish floating restaurant. This past summer, apparently on a whim, he invited dignitaries, including a British diplomat, to ride a roller coaster at a new amusement park. If Kim is in fact interested in reforms, he might be taking a calculated gamble that by raising the specter of bloodshed, a war-weary United States might be prodded to provide him with a pathway out of the strict sanctions that have helped turn North Korea into the world's most isolated country.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with Kim Jong Un assuming command. Do you personally believe this ordeal will escalate to combat operations involving U.S. Armed Forces? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence not limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate Venn Diagrams to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. The Ryugyong Hotel stands 1080 ft making it the most prominent feature of Pyongyang's skyline and by far the tallest structure in North Korea. Kim is approximately 5'3", weighs 192 pounds, and his shadow is 7.5 ft. Illustrate the diagram. Determine how far Kim Jong Un stands from the building so that his shadow coincides with the Hotel's shadow. Identify the means and extremes of the proportion. Explain your reasoning. **(MA.912.D.1.2; MA.912.G.2.4; MA.912.G.4.1; MA.912.G.4.5;)**
3. Despite countless warnings to the contrary, you are serving on a proactive independent peacekeeping mission, you contract a charter flight from Sarasota, Florida to Pyongyang, North Korea. It takes 15 hours 45 minutes to fly 7525 miles against a massive unforeseen headwind. Simultaneously, Kim Jong Un loyalist and former NBA athlete, Dennis Rodman, flies from Pyongyang to Sarasota at the same average airspeed; however, his flight is only 14 hours. Find the average airspeed of the planes and the average wind speed. **(MA.912.A.3.14; MA.912.A.3.15)**
4. Identify and thoroughly support your reasoning regarding which of the following that best describes the author's attitude toward the subject matter discussed: flippant disregard, mild frustration, passive resignation or an informed citizen. Explain the primary purpose of this passage and identify any indicators, which suggest the author may possess a bias against Kim Jong Un regime. Provide an inference that American troops may derive. **(RI.9-10.1 - 10.6)**
5. Using contextual clues only, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *predecessors*, *malnourished*, *gregarious*, *ascension*, *reclusive*, *provocative*, *disavowed*, *careening*, and *despotic* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
6. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Gossamer* (Goss uh mer) n. Delicate floating cobwebs; A sheer gauzy fabric. **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards adapted from floridastandards.org. Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

Copyright 2013. *The Daughtry Times*® Education through Integration™ All rights reserved. www.daughtrytimes.com
Contents of this document excluding the article itself, may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed in whole or part without the express written permission through a licensed agreement and is restricted to teacher-student use only.