Hail to thee, O Nile! Who manifests thyself over this land, and comes to give life to Egypt! Mysterious is thy issuing forth from the darkness, on this day whereon it is celebrated! Watering the orchards created by Re, to cause all the cattle to live, you give the earth to drink, inexhaustible one! Path that descends from the sky, loving the bread of Seb and the first-fruits of Nepera, You cause the workshops of Ptah to prosper!

Close Reading Strategy: Independent Reading

As you read “The Hymns of the Nile,” complete the following tasks:

* Circle the words that are compelling; they may be unfamiliar, interesting or confusing.
* Draw pictures when a description or explanation makes you think of an image. (at least 2!)
* Underline one sentence that you think captures the main idea (thesis).
* Put \* next to important details that you think support the main idea.

Lord of the fish, during the inundation, no bird alights on the crops. You create the grain, you bring forth the barley, assuring perpetuity to the temples. If you cease your toil and your work, then all that exists is in anguish. If the gods suffer in heaven, then the faces of men waste away.

Close Reading Strategy: Reflection

Discuss the following topics:

* Discuss what the main idea (thesis) is and the details that support it. Try to narrow the topic into one sentence. Record your sentence summary at the bottom of the text. Make your sentence summary detailed and thorough, yet concise.
* Determine the meanings and impact of the compelling words.
* Think about the author’s attitude (tone) toward the subject matter? How is this revealed? Note this on the page.

O inundation of the Nile, offerings are made unto you, men are immolated to you, great festivals are instituted for you. Birds are sacrificed to you, gazelles are taken for you in the mountain, pure flames are prepared for you. Sacrifice is metle to every god as it is made to the Nile. The Nile has made its retreats in Southern Egypt, its name is not known beyond the Tuau. The god manifests not his forms, He baffles all conception.

Men exalt him like the cycle of the gods, they dread him who creates the heat, even him who has made his son the universal master in order to give prosperity to Egypt. Come (and) prosper! Come (and) prosper! O Nile, come (and) prosper! O you who make men to live through his flocks and his flocks through his orchards! Come (and) prosper, come, O Nile, come (and) prosper!