

“THE RIGHT STUFF” (TO DO)

#1 In the book (and later, the film, 1983) “The Right Stuff ” by Tom Wolfe, military test pilots were selected to be our first astronauts. At first, they were just going to be strapped inside a capsule with no window and no controls. The seven original American astronauts were **Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard, and Deke Slayton.**

#2 [Liaison\(Media\) Man](#): [chuckling] Exactly! Right now the President's got his own problems with the **Bay of Pigs**, he doesn't want the astronauts' image tarnished. Nothing these guys do is gonna be called a failure... But you'd think the public'd know that they're just doing what monkeys have done...

#3 [Chuck Yeager](#): Monkeys? *Think a monkey knows he's sitting on top of a rocket that might explode?* These astronaut boys, they know that, see? Well, I'll tell you somethin' - ***it takes a special kind of man to volunteer for a suicide mission***, especially one that's on TV. Ol' Gus, he did alright.

#4. [Scott Carpenter](#): John's right! Now, whether we like it or not, **we're public figures**. Whether we deserve it or not, people are going to look up to us. We have got a tremendous responsibility here.

#5. [Alan Shepard](#): You cannot tell a pilot what he's doing when he's not flying!

[Argument continues]

#6. [Gus Grissom](#): Wait a minute, wait a minute!

[turns Glenn toward him]

#7. [Gus Grissom](#): You've got it all wrong, the issue here ain't (**being scared**). The issue here is monkey.

#8. [John Glenn](#): What?

#9. [Gus Grissom](#): Us. We are the monkey.

#10. [Deke Slayton](#): What Gus is saying is that we're missing the point. What Gus is saying is that we all heard the rumors that they want to send a monkey up first. Well, none of us wants to think that they're gonna send a monkey up to do a man's work. But what Gus is saying is that what they're trying to do to us is send a man up to do a monkey's work. Us, a bunch of college-trained chimpanzees!

#11. [Gus Grissom](#): F'n- A, bubba.

#12. [Deke Slayton](#): Alright, so what Gus is saying is that we've got to change things around here. He's saying that we are pilots. And we know more about what we need to fly this thing than anybody else. So what we have to do is to alter the experiment. And what that comes down to is who is gonna control this thing from here on out.

#13. [Gordon Cooper](#): What Gus is saying here is that we've got to stick together on this deal.

[the Mercury Seven walk through the space center after the response to **Yuri Gagarin's space shot**]

#14. [John Glenn](#): I'm tired of being **forthright, gracious** and **magnanimous**.

#15. [Gordon Cooper](#): Yeah.

#16. [John Glenn](#): I'm tired of these stupid questions from the press.

#17. [Gordon Cooper](#): mm-hmm

#18. [John Glenn](#): I'm tired of smocks, I'm tired of engineers telling us what we can't do, I'm tired of everybody that says we are not pilots!

#19. [Gordon Cooper](#): You tell 'em, John.

#20. [John Glenn](#): I'm tired of monkeys.

#21. [Alan Shepard](#): Yeah.

#22. [John Glenn](#): And most of all, ***I am sick and tired of being second to those... those darn Russians!***

#23. [Gus Grissom](#): There ya go.

#24. [John Glenn](#): Now I think it's about time we...

#25. [Wally Schirra](#): got someone up there!

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Name:

Per.

1. **1st Read** (or **act out the roles**). *There are three (3)- “scenes”*.
2. **Make annotations** on the paper, what are they talking about?
3. Discuss with table partners.
4. NOW, **circle the words** you aren't sure of and try to guess their meaning.
5. NEXT, **underline key vocabulary**
6. 2nd Read: **Listen while I read it** to you *and add emphasis*
7. Discuss with table partners how you might have heard it differently.
8. What points are they trying to make in each of the three scenes? **What's the point?**

Scene 1:

Scene 2:

Scene 3:

9. **What are the qualities** these men have that *shows they have*, “the right stuff”?
10. **Who can you think of** that you feel has “the right stuff” being talked about here?