In this unit, the first reading that speaks towards enlightenment is the turning of the monarchy rule into a constitutional one in England in 1689 with the creation of the Bill of Rights (Gomez & Peters, 2023). This bill was necessary to prevent feudal wars caused by giving too much power to the kings, as well as the constant wars that besieged the kingdom as a result of the religious war between Protestants and Catholics (Gomez & Peters, 2023). This showed that the people devised a means to reduce the constant bickering that would have limited the growth of the kingdom if they hadn’t applied reasoning to solve the constant religious wars that sometimes pitted the monarch against his subjects. Another reading that exemplifies the teachings of the Enlightenment is Samuel Pepys's diary entry about the fire in London (Gomez & Peters, 2023). The diary writings talked about the London fire, which was witnessed by Samuel, and the solution he gave to stop it. Instead of joining others in panicking about and trying to salvage their properties, he gave himself to reason and saw that the only way to end the fire without destroying the whole city was to pull down houses that were in the way of the fire and also find the necessary means to do that (Gomez & Peters, 2023). His answer brought him before the king, who gave the command that he takes the same advice to the mayor, who was already doing something similar to control the fire.

The reading on disease and disasters exemplified Enlightenment-era teaching. The period in the reading showed England, especially London, at a time when they first had an issue with the bubonic plague in 1665, killing an estimated 100,000 people (Brown & Garcia, 2018). With the bubonic plague still in town and raving, London faced another disaster due to a fire incident, which was spreading through the town, destroying houses and property (Brown & Garcia, 2018). Although the fire brought an end to the bubonic plague, the city and its leaders made the effort to put an end to the reoccurrence of such instances by creating a better city through the banning of building houses with thatched roofs and installing better drainage systems within the city (Brown & Garcia, 2018). The city inhabitants could have blamed both incidents on the wrath of God due to their sins, but they applied the concept of reason and saw that there were real factors around them that had contributed to the disaster and disease, and as such, made an effort to stop it from occurring again in the future.

Another reading from the unit that showed the concept of enlightenment is the modest proposal by Jonathan Swift. It talked about a serious problem facing the nation of Ireland at that point, which was the beggar system that had continued for centuries, and how to put an end to it (Ref-u155324). For a long time, Ireland has been besieged by the problem of poor parents not being able to support their children, and most of these children either become thieves to support themselves or find a way to become mercenaries in distant wars just to make ends meet (Ref-u155324). Swift applied the concept of reasoning to find a lasting solution to this problem instead of leaving it to be solved by divine beings. He found out that if the problem can be solved quickly, it will save the country from the gloomy and bad light into which it has been thrown and also elevate it to a better status among other European nations (Ref-u155324). This is because such a solution will become a win-win for everyone. All the above concepts and examples further buttress the point of enlightenment, which places reason over irrationality, as this was shown by the early Europeans who applied it.