

1 **Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address**

2 Abraham Lincoln

March 4, 1865

3 Fellow-Countrymen:

4
5 At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there
6 is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then
7 a statement somewhat in detail of a course to be pursued seemed fitting
8 and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public
9 declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase
10 of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the
11 energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress
12 of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the
13 public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and
14 encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard
15 to it is ventured.

16
17 On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were
18 anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it, all sought
19 to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this
20 place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, urgent agents
21 were in the city seeking to destroy it without war--seeking to dissolve
22 the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated
23 war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive,
24 and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war
25 came.

26
27 One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed
28 generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These
29 slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this
30 interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate,
31 and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would
32 rend the Union even by war, while the Government claimed no right to
33 do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party
34 expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already
35 attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease
36 with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an
37 easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read
38 the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid
39 against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a
40 just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other
41 men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of
42 both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully.
43 The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of
44 offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by
45 whom the offense cometh." If we shall suppose that American slavery is
46 one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs

statement

end
Formal announcements,
point

risked

Threatening to occur soon
avoid

Movable property, making
an agreement through
talking, protested against
die

Movable property

Keep going
Rebels

Expansion of land

of central importance
asking God for help

Sorrow

wisdom

47 come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now
48 wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible
49 war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern
50 therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in
51 a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do
52 we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if
53 God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's
54 two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until
55 every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn
56 with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be
57 said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

58
59 With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right
60 as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are
61 in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne
62 the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve
63 and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all
64 nations.

Discover/decide
Characteristics of God
A trait that belongs to someone,
Really concentrated
Work done by slaves

hostility or hatred

fair

Teacher’s Guide

Name of Text: **Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address**

Question Composers: **Andrea Ramelli; Tennile O’Meara; Elena Kelley**

Nevada State Standards: H2.18, .19 (review), H3.22

CCSS: RHST.11-12.1, RHST.11-12.2, RHST.11-12.3, RHST.11-12.4, RHST.11-12.5, RHST.11-12.8, RHST.11-12.10; WHST.11-12.2, WHST.11-12.9, SL.11.1, SL.11.2; L.11.1, L.11.2, L.11.4

Text Dependent Questions	Teacher Notes and Possible Textual Evidence For Student Answers
Using the first sentence, what does the word “inaugural” in the title mean?	Line 6 – taking the oath of Presidential office Reasoning: to orient the reader to the topic
According to the text, what is Lincoln the president of?	Line 23 – President of the Union Reasoning: orient the reader to the time period and prepare the student for analysis
Identify as many of Lincoln’s references to war as you can in line 10-32 by line number and language used.	Line 11 – great contest Line 12/13 – progress of our arms Line 15 – with high hope to the future Line 19 – impending civil war Line 21 – saving the Union Line 21 – war Line 22/23 – dissolve the union and divide effects Line 23/24 both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive Line 25 – the other would accept war rather than let it perish

Text Dependent Questions

Teacher Notes
and
Possible Textual Evidence
For
Student Answers

	<p>Line 25/26 - and the war came Line 31 - the cause of the war Line 32 - insurgents</p> <p>Reasoning: identify emphasis of topic and language used to support writing prompt</p>
<p>Based upon the list created above, how does Lincoln feel about being at war?</p>	<p>Line 23/24 Lincoln feels that it is a necessary evil that must be fought in order to bring the nation back together Lines 54-59 to atone for 150 years of wealth that the was made from slavery</p> <p>Reasoning: To orient students to point of view and analyze why Lincoln choose to go to war; which assists the students in providing supporting evidence for their writing prompt.</p>
<p>In lines 18-26, what did both parties (Line 18) agree upon? How did that shift over time?</p>	<p>All agreed upon avoiding war and protesting it, over time both came to accept war but for different reasons.</p> <p>Reasoning: identify shift in attitudes since last inauguration and again supports writing prompt.</p>
<p>In lines 20-23 what does Lincoln state was occurring at the same time of his 1st Inaugural Address “four years ago”?</p>	<p>While the inaugural address was being delivered “agents” were in the city seeking to destroy it without war by using negotiation.</p> <p>Reasoning: this shows that even as he was delivering his first official speech as President of the United States, there were people igniting conflict. This question also supports the writing prompt.</p>
<p>In lines 30-43, what are the causes that Lincoln addresses for the inevitability of war?</p>	<p>Lincoln feels that the war was inevitable because it would: bring about the end of slavery (31), the government wanted to keep slavery from expanding into the territories (34), neither the North or the South expected the war to last for so long or to be so damaging (34-35)</p> <p>Reasoning: This shows Lincoln’s reasoning as to why both sides supported the war and also supports writing prompt.</p>

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<p>Using lines 34-52, trace the commonalities that both the North and the South had.</p>	<p>Line 35- Neither expected the war to last so long or have such an impact Line 36/37- Neither thought that slavery would end in the entire country before the war would end Line 37/38 - looked for easier triumph, Line 38/39 - both read same Bible, prayed to same God, invokes His aid Lines 49-52 - He gives the war to both sides as a punishment for slavery</p> <p>Reasoning: Explains how both the North and the South suffered during the war and contributes supporting evidence for the writing prompt.</p>
<p>Based upon you answer above, why did Lincoln explain the commonalities between the North and South in his speech?</p>	<p>He includes all these commonalities to demonstrate that both the North and the South were experiencing the same terrible consequences of war.</p> <p>Reasoning: By showing that both sides experienced horrible losses the writing prompt is supported.</p>
<p>Compare and contrast Lincoln’s tone in the last paragraph to the other paragraphs.</p>	<p>Tone in the last paragraph is hopeful - “us”, “ourselves”, “all”, “none”, bringing the two sides together, “achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace” (60-64). Other paragraphs discuss devastation of war.</p> <p>Reasoning: supports writing prompt</p>
<p>Explicit means: stated clearly, directly Who is the explicit audience Lincoln addresses? Implicit means: implied, not directly stated Who is the implicit audience? Provide examples.</p>	<p>Through his 2nd Inaugural Address, Lincoln is able to explicitly address the Union (21-23), his fellow countrymen (4) and “all” of the country (64). Implicitly he is addressing the South (28-38).</p> <p>Reasoning: By explaining who Lincoln’s audience is, students demonstrate that Lincoln was acting as President of the entire country, not simply the North. Their answers show Lincoln’s desire for the country to once again be one.</p>

Writing Prompt:

What is the purpose of Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address? Cite at least five pieces of textual evidence (quote or paraphrase with line numbers) from throughout the speech to support this central idea. For each, use clear reasoning to support how the evidence supports the central idea.

There were three purposes of Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address delivered on March 4, 1865 including: to explain the causes of the war, problems that may arise as a result of the war, and to demonstrate the hope of maintaining a united nation. Primarily, Lincoln wanted to explain the reasons the country went to war. In lines 20-23 Lincoln explains that even when he was delivering his first Inaugural Address, men were trying to pull the United States apart. Lincoln explains in lines 24-25 that war came because the South would, "make war rather than let the nation survive", and the other (the North) would accept war rather than let it perish." Lincoln explains that war was inevitable because it would bring about an end to slavery (31). Other reasons that are provided are: that the government wanted to keep slavery from expanding into the territories (34), neither the North or the South expected the war to last for so long or that they thought it would be so damaging (34-35).

The second purpose was to explain both the problems and the issues that both sides would have to face after the war. For instance in lines 43-44, Lincoln explains that both sides asked the same God to answer their prayers, but neither side had their prayers answered. At the end of the speech, Lincoln explains that both sides will have, "to bind up the nation's wounds," care for the soldiers that, "borne the battle" and take care of any fallen soldier's "widow and his orphan." The North and South will have, "to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

The final purpose was to express his desire for the country to reunite. By addressing the problems and issues that both sides would face after the war ended he shows that he sees himself as the President of the entire country and not simply the North (4, 21-23, 64). His desire for the nation to be reunited is explicitly addressed through his use of the word "Union" (21-23), "fellow countrymen" (4) and "all" of the country (64). The South is implicitly addressed in lines 28-38. Finally, when Lincoln states at the very end of his speech that the nation needed, "to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations," he reveals once again his purpose of reunited the country.

The following are additional lines that students could include in their writing:

- Lines 15 - "high hope for the future"
- Line 19 - Use of the word "all" unifies the country
- Line 21 - "devoted altogether to saving the Union"
- Line 25 - "other would accept war rather than let it perish"
- Line 38/39 - Use of the comparison "Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God..." to establish commonalities
- Lines 49 - "He gives to both North and South this terrible war..."
- Final paragraph - "nation's wounds" "lasting peace"
- All uses of "all" "we" "us" and "our" in the speech

Vocabulary

These words merit <u>LESS</u> time and attention (They are concrete and easy to explain, or describe events/ processes/ideas/concepts/experiences that are familiar to your students.)			These words merit <u>MORE</u> time and attention (They are abstract, have multiple meanings, and/or are a part of a large family of words with related meanings. These words are likely to describe events, ideas, processes or experiences that most of your student will be unfamiliar with.)		
Line #	Word	Definition	Line #	Word	Definition
7	address	A formal speech	10	declarations	Formal announcements
9	expiration	Coming to a formal end	19	impending	Threatening to occur soon
10	phase	A particular stage in a cycle of development or process of change	20	avert	To prevent or forestall
23	negotiation	Mutual discussions intended to produce an agreement	21	urgent	Earnestly or stubbornly insistent in requesting
25	perish	To die or be destroyed, especially in an untimely or unnatural way	23	effects	Movable property
37	attained	To achieve through effort	30	localized	To confine to a particular place
37	cease	To stop or come to an end	32	perpetuate	To cause to last or to be remembered
39	triumph	The act, condition, or fact of achieving a great victory or success	33	object	The purpose or goal of a particular activity or endeavor
46	offenses	A violation of a law, rule, or standard of conduct; crime, sin, or breach of good conduct	35	territorial enlargement	Expanding or increasing into more areas of land
53	fervently	Having or expressing, warmth, depth, or intensity of feeling	36	magnitude	Greatness or importance
54	scourge	Someone or something that inflicts punishment or causes suffering or destruction	40	invokes	To call out to (a god, muse, or the like) for help, support, protection, or inspiration
57	lash	A whip used to punish people	51	discern	To perceive or make out
62	strive	To try or work hard; exert oneself	52	divine attributes	Characteristics that are of, from or pertaining to a god or gods
			53	ascribe	To consider as belonging, especially as a characteristic or trait
			61	charity	Unwillingness to judge others harshly; benevolence; goodwill
			65	just	Characterized by moral rightness