**Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address**

Abraham Lincoln

March 4, 1865

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

Fellow-Countrymen:

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

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impendingcivil war. All dreaded it, all sought to avertit. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, urgentagents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war--seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effectsby negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war came.

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localizedin the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargementof it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitudeor the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might ceasewith, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokesHis aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discerntherein any departure from those divine attributeswhich the believers in a living God always ascribeto Him? Fondly do we hope, ferventlydo we pray, that this mighty scourgeof war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lashshall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

Discover/decide

Characteristics of God

A trait that belongs to someone,

Really concetrated

Work done by slaves

hostility or hatred

fair

With malice toward none, with charityfor all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us striveon to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a justand lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

**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 – progess 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  Line 25/26 – and the war came  Line 31 – the cause of the war  Line 32 – insurgents  Reasoning: identify emphasis of topic and language used to support writing prompt |
| Based upon the list created above, how does Lincoln feel about being at war? | 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  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. |
| In lines 18-26, what did both parties (Line 18) agree upon? How did that shift over time? | All agreed upon avoiding war and protesting it, over time both came to accept war but for different reasons.  Reasoning: identify shift in attitudes since last inauguration and again supports writing prompt. |
| In lines 20-23 what does Lincoln state was occurring at the same time of his 1st Inaugural Address “four years ago”? | While the inaugural address was being delivered **“**agents” were in the city seeking to destroy it without war by using negotiation.  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. |
| In lines 30-43, what are the causes that Lincoln addresses for the inevitability of war? | 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)  Reasoning: This shows Lincoln’s reasoning as to why both sides supported the war and also supports writing prompt. |
| Using lines 34-52, trace the commonalities that both the North and the South had. | 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  Reasoning: Explains how both the North and the South suffered during the war and contributes supporting evidence for the writing prompt. |
| Based upon you answer above, why did Lincoln explain the commonalities between the North and South in his speech? | He includes all these commonalities to demonstrate that both the North and the South were experiencing the same terrible consequences of war.  Reasoning: By showing that both sides experienced horrible losses the writing prompt is supported. |
| Compare and contrast Lincoln’s tone in the last paragraph to the other paragraphs. | 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.  Reasoning: supports writing prompt |
| 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. | 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).  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. |

**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 is 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 though 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 world “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 LESS 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 MORE 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 or 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 |