



LINCOLN

Film Study Guide Questions

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Opening Titles

1. What is the purpose of the scene consisting of Lincoln speaking with the black and white soldiers?

Lincoln's Dream

2. Symbolically, what does Lincoln's dream represent to both Lincoln himself and to his wife?
3. What is the unspoken connection that Lincoln makes between his son and the photographs?

A New Amendment

4. Who is Seward, the man Lincoln is speaking with in his carriage and in his office? What role does he seem to play?

5. What are some of the obstacles that Lincoln faced in passing the 13th Amendment?

War Powers

6. Which part do some members of the Cabinet support bombarding? Why?

7. Why are some Cabinet members upset with Lincoln?

8. Why does Lincoln want so badly to pass the 13th Amendment?

9. What does Lincoln mean when he says, "We're whalers"?

10. Who are the Radicals?

11. Why do the Radicals distrust Lincoln?

The House Debate

12. Which party was trying to make the case that Lincoln was a dictator and was opposed to the 13th Amendment?

13. Who returns home, much to the delight of Mary Lincoln and Tad, and where has he been?

Getting Out The Vote

14. What does Mr. Blair plead with Lincoln to do?

15. What does Secretary Seward and his hired lobbyists seek to do?

16. What type of Democrat do they think they can influence and how will they sway them?

Seeds Of Time

17. What does Sec. Seward get upset with Lincoln over? Why would he be especially upset?

18. What does Robert want?

19. What is Mary grieving over?

Grand Reception

20. Why has Mary Lincoln been investigated in the past?

21. What does Lincoln want the Mr. Stevens and the Radicals to do in the debate? Why?

The Fallen At Wilmington

22. Who is Stanton and what does he want to happen right away?

23. What news comes over the telegraph?

24. What strategy do the Democrats adopt in regards to Stevens?

25. What fears does the Representative from Kentucky raise about the 13th Amendment?

26. What is causing difficulty for Seward's men in holding onto votes for the Amendment?

No Sixteen-Year-Olds Left

27. What does General Grant want Lincoln to do in regards to the Southern offer?

28. What is Lincoln up in the middle of the night doing?

29. What message does Lincoln send to Grant at first?

30. What does Lincoln's knowledge of Euclid convey?

31. How does Lincoln change the message to Grant? Why?

Equality Under The Law

32. What is Stevens urged to do before his speech?

33. What does Stevens do in his speech?

34. Why does he do so?

Robert's Ambition

35. Where do Lincoln and Robert go? Why?

36. Why is Robert so adamant about serving in the army?

37. What compromise does Lincoln try to make with his wife over Robert's enlistment?

38. What still remains as a point of conflict between Lincoln and Mary?

39. What question is raised between Lincoln and his black servant?

Bipartisan Support

40. What does "bipartisan" mean?

41. Why does Lincoln visit Seward's men?

42. What solution does he propose for securing Representative Coffroth's vote, who is a Democrat?

43. Coffroth offers to switch to the Republican Party and vote for the amendment, but Stevens will not let him. Why?

Fairness And Freedom

44. Why is Yeaman reluctant to change his vote and support the amendment?

45. Why does Mr. Hutton hate black people?

46. What does Lincoln insist must happen now?

47. How many more votes does Lincoln need?

The Morning Of The Vote

48. What does Pendleton from Ohio say in his remarks before the vote to try and get a postponement?

49. What must Lincoln tell the House? What is the response he gives?

50. After all of the votes, what is the final result?

Celebration

51. What does Stevens do with the bill?

52. When Lincoln sees the delegation, what do they insist upon?

53. What does Lincoln insist?

Petersburg Battlefield

54. After Lee surrenders, what does Lincoln tell Grant to do?

55. How can the toll the war is taking on Lincoln be seen?

Now He Belongs To The Ages

56. What foreshadowing is evident as Lincoln walks away down the hall?

57. Where was Lincoln assassinated?

58. Which speech is Lincoln giving at the end of the film?

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Film Study Guide Questions - TEACHER'S COPY

Opening Titles

1. What is the purpose of the scene consisting of Lincoln speaking with the black and white soldiers?

Answers will vary. Students may realize that the scene demonstrates how Lincoln was able and willing to listen to the common soldiers, both black and white. The scene also raises the issue of equality for blacks who are willing to fight for the North. Also shows that Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was a source of inspiration for the North.

Lincoln's Dream

2. Symbolically, what does Lincoln's dream represent to both Lincoln himself and to his wife?

Answers will vary, especially since this is early in the film. But students may see this as Lincoln's awareness that he is being carried forward to a place he is unsure of (in the context of the film, the consequences of the 13th Amendment). Mary Lincoln feels it is his anxiety before a big battle.

3. What is the unspoken connection that Lincoln makes between his son and the photographs?

The photographs are of black boys of a similar age. Perhaps he is making the connection that regardless of skin color, the boys are more similar than different.

A New Amendment

4. Who is Seward, the man Lincoln is speaking with in his carriage and in his office? What role does he seem to play?