

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

Lincoln's Undying Words

READ:

Over Abraham Lincoln's career he gave hundreds of speeches. Some speeches were as a young lawyer in Springfield, Illinois and the surrounding area. Some were given when he was a member of the Illinois State Legislature, and others were as President. His words have often been repeated and used in other speeches too and for that reason, some people call them "undying words". One of the last speeches he gave was his second inaugural address, (a speech given at the time the President take the Presidential Oath of Office. In this speech, he called for an end to the Civil War and for people to heal the divides between them.

DO:

- **Read** the part of the Second Inaugural Address that is on the following page. Ask an adult to help you find out the meaning of any words you don't understand.
- **Circle, underline, or highlight** words or phrases that you like, and think are important.
- **Create** a "Found Poem" (a collection of words or phrases taken from another source and arranged into an original poem)
- **Write** the words you chose in the order you read them onto another piece paper, this is your found poem. Read it out loud. You might decide to take out some words or phrases, so it reads better.
- **Re-write** your poem on construction paper and decorate it.

Approx. Time: 30—45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ Text from Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address
- ⇒ Pencil/Pen or highlighter
- ⇒ Construction Paper
- ⇒ Drawing materials

SHARE:

- **Post** your poem on social media with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies.

Sample Poem:

Hope, Pray
War May Pass
Malice Toward None
Charity to see Right
Finish Work
Bind Wounds
Care for All
Achieve Peace



Abraham Lincoln, 1865 IChi-027340

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

Delivered March 4, 1865
US Capitol, Washington, DC

...Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall 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."

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on 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 just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

Write highlighted words and phrases from above here. Remember to keep them in order!