

Lincoln Movie Questions

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ON YOUR OWN PAPER.

These questions are very detailed and specific. Many may be answered after you finish the movie - HOWEVER - they do require you to watch the movie very intently. They do not necessarily follow the order of the film. You should read over the questions before the film begins in order to be prepared to answer them as the topics come up during the film or afterwards.

1. Create a Venn diagram that you will fill in information on during the entire movie comparing and contrasting the positions of the following groups toward the proposed 13th Amendment: Radical Republicans, Moderate Republicans, and Democrats.
2. Who was Pres. Lincoln talking to at the beginning of the movie? What did they recite?
3. What was the 13th Amendment? Was passing it so important to President Lincoln? (This answer will be answered (at least part two) throughout the entire movie (not just one scene).
4. Who was brought in to try and convince Representatives to vote to vote for the 13th Amendment? How did they try and accomplish this?
5. Why does Robert Lincoln want to join the Army? Why do Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln not want him to?
6. What is one way President Lincoln tried to convince Robert not to join the Army.
7. Why does Preston Blair want to go to Richmond VA?
8. Why does President Lincoln not want the southern peace negotiators to come to Washington DC?
9. How does Mrs. Lincoln treat Thaddeus Stevens in the reception line at the White House? Why is she upset?
10. What is President Lincoln's reaction to seeing the battlefield after the Battle of Petersburg? What does he say to General Grant?
11. In the movie, President Lincoln said, "The part assigned to me is to raise the flag which, if there be no fault in the machinery, I will do. And, when up, it shall be for the people to keep it up. That's my speech." When he says, "...it shall be for the people to keep it up," what does he mean?

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12. In the scene when Lincoln's youngest son is laying in front of the fire, he was on top of an important war strategy map – what does this say about Lincoln as a father? What does it say about the son?
13. In the film, Lincoln says, “A compass will point you true north. But it won't show you the swamps between you and there. If you don't avoid the swamps, what's the use of knowing true north?” What is the metaphor of 'North' – remember the metaphor for the West? (This will help) And how does this metaphor relate the point Lincoln was making?
14. Abraham Lincoln resorts to various methods in order to get the House of Representatives to pass the amendment. Do you believe that these tactics are necessary? Why or why not?
15. Explain why the Emancipation Proclamation was able to free only those slaves living in the Confederacy, and why this freedom may have been taken away after the war, had the 13th Amendment failed to pass.
16. Thaddeus Stevens downplays his true political beliefs in order to gain passage of the amendment. Do you feel that this makes him more principled or less principled? Of standing one's ground despite guaranteed defeat, or downplaying one's beliefs in order to gain a small victory on the path to additional victories, which is more honorable?
17. What character in this film do you identify with most strongly, and why?
18. In the film scene were The peace negotiations with the Confederates show how close the Civil War was to continuing, even after Lee's surrender. What could have turned the tide in the secessionists' favor? How close was the Union to dissolving?
19. Lincoln faced a country divided. The 2012 election saw a very close popular vote, with people passionately for and against the candidates. Do you see any parallels with the issues, especially the Fiscal Cliff, which we face today?
20. What was your general view of the movie? What did you like? Did not like? Were confused about?