

Abraham Lincoln: Second Inaugural Address

Abraham Lincoln

How does Lincoln say both sides dreaded war while still distinguishing their responsibility for it?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	And the war came
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Second paragraph
START	Fellow-countrymen: At this second appearing to take the oath of the presidential office
END	And the war came.
PASSAGE ID	sec-lin2-02

THE MOVE

Use parallel structure to assign unequal agency without triumphalism

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Lincoln says both sides dreaded war, but the parallel sentences do not distribute responsibility equally. One side would accept war to preserve slavery; the other would accept war rather than let the nation perish. The shared reluctance sits beside unequal causes and choices.

MARK

Bracket the parallel phrases describing what both sides wanted to avoid. Underline the different conditions each side was willing to accept war for. Star the short sentence 'And the war came.'

NOTICE

- What emotion or desire does Lincoln attribute to both sides?
- Where does the grammar remain parallel while the moral responsibility diverges?
- Why does the impersonal sentence 'And the war came' sound restrained after the preceding assignment of agency?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Lincoln say both sides dreaded war while still distinguishing their responsibility for it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Lincoln say both sides dreaded war while still distinguishing their responsibility for it? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Parallel structure gives both sides a shared desire to avoid war, but the reasons they are willing to accept war differ. One side would fight to preserve slavery; the other would fight rather than let the Union perish.
EVIDENCE	Compare the grammatically parallel descriptions of each side's aim and the compressed ending 'And the war came.'
WATCH FOR	Do not claim Lincoln makes responsibility equal because the sentences are balanced. The parallel grammar contains unequal agency.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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How does Lincoln say both sides dreaded war while still distinguishing their responsibility for it?

START ANCHOR	Fellow-countrymen: At this second appearing to take the oath of the presidential office
END ANCHOR	And the war came.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Bracket the parallel phrases describing what both sides wanted to avoid. Underline the different conditions each side was willing to accept war for. Star the short sentence 'And the war came.'
2. NOTICE - What emotion or desire does Lincoln attribute to both sides? Where does the grammar remain parallel while the moral responsibility diverges? Why does the impersonal sentence 'And the war came' sound restrained after the preceding assignment of agency?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Lincoln say both sides dreaded war while still distinguishing their responsibility for it?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.