

LINCOLN

President Lincoln is a person whom I greatly admire. Among the attributes of his character, his sheer determination or constitution was profound. Though he served as a two-term President, the period was the most controversial and divisive in our history – a crossroads in the development of the nation that jeopardized the vision and plans of the founding fathers.



In regard to his determination, Lincoln was largely self-educated;



to the left, the illustration shows a possible scene in the Lincoln home as Abe reads by the fire light. Lincoln was a bit of sailor (on a flat river barge), a store clerk, a soldier for a brief period, a business partner, a postmaster, a surveyor, an attorney, a politician, a state representative, and the 16th President of the United States – all this with only one year of formal education and a series of setbacks of a financial, political, and personal nature.

Lincoln's constitution included the personal and political belief that *all men are created equal*; thus, they are afforded all the rights of the democracy as described in the Declaration of Independence. The text box below provides statements from one of the debates in which Lincoln urged the citizenry to *discard* the notion of an inferior race of people and *stand up* and declare that all men are created equal.

Let us discard all this quibbling about this man and the other man—this race and that race and the other race, being inferior, and therefore they must be placed in an inferior position. Let us discard all these things, and unite as one people throughout the land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal.

Lincoln considered that slavery should not be a part of democracy; and that the continued government-support of slavery would inevitably lead to division or a *house divided*. Though the statement and political position was controversial, and therefore divisive as well, such a response was generated from one who had observed the burden placed on this people and the inhumane treatment as property rather than people.

Lincoln faced great obstacles from his humble origin to the death of several of his children and related emotional instability of his wife – Mary also lost four brothers who died for the Confederacy. Though Abe suffered with depression and melancholy, he remained committed and resolute to victory and re-construction for the Union. Books, stories and memories contain valuable lessons of the determination of one man who refused to allow his house to remain divided and separate.

In a

WORD