

Quotations by Abraham Lincoln

“When I read aloud two senses catch the idea; first, I see what I read; second, I hear it, and therefore I can remember it better.”

--Remark to William Herndon, who asked him, with annoyance, why he read aloud (no date)

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing.”

--Letter to Isham Reavis, November 5, 1855

“A capacity and taste for reading gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others. It is the key, or one of the keys, to the already solved problem. And not only so, it gives a relish and facility for successfully pursuing the yet unsolved ones.”

--Letter to John M. Brockman, September 25, 1860

“Herewith is a little sketch (of autobiography), as you requested. There is not much of it, for the reason, I suppose, that there is not much of me.”

--Letter to Jesse Fell, for an article in Chester (Pennsylvania)

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.

I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half *slave* and half *free*.

I do not expect the Union to be *dissolved*--I do not expect the house to *fall*--but I do expect it will cease to be divided.

It will become *all one thing, or all the other*.”

--Speech accepting the nomination for U. S. Senator, Republican State Convention, Springfield, Illinois, June 16, 1858

(NOTE: Kentucky students could compare the first part of the preceding quotation to their state motto.)

“I, too, am a Kentuckian.” (also pertinent to Kentucky students)—1861

“Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.”

---Speech, Cooper Union Institute, New York City, February 27, 1860

“It is true that while I hold myself without mock modesty the humblest of all individuals that have ever been elevated to the Presidency, I have a more difficult task to perform than any one of them.”

---Speech to the New York State Legislature, February 18, 1861

“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”

----Second Inaugural Address, Washington, D. C., March 4, 1865