



# *LINCOLN*:

## Film Study Guide

**Movie:** *Lincoln*

**Based on:** *Team of Rivals—The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

**Release:** Friday, Nov. 9, 2012 (Disney/Touchstone)

**Production:** DreamWorks, 20th Century Fox, Reliance Entertainment, Amblin

**Director:** Steven Spielberg

**Rated:** PG-13, 149 minutes

For more information: [Emancipation Digital Classroom](#)

## SYNOPSIS

- It's January 1865 and Abraham Lincoln, 16<sup>th</sup> president, is struggling to deal with a divided nation. The Civil War is in its fourth year, and the issue of slavery dominates the House of Representatives as Lincoln enters his second term. This film focuses on the work and challenges that Lincoln and his advisors face in trying to get a new amendment of the Constitution ratified—Thirteenth Amendment which would abolish slavery. The amendment passed the Senate the previous year and while he is assured of yes votes from his fellow Republicans, he and his team have to work hard behind the scenes to assure enough yes votes from Democrats, which may require some compromise in other areas. But other factors may also come into play on the vote, such as the Confederate forces in the war issuing their own compromise to end the war but keep slavery. Lincoln balances the potential to end the war peacefully with his commitment and determination to abolishing slavery.

## LIST OF CHARACTERS

### THE LINCOLN FAMILY

- **Abraham Lincoln** (Daniel Day-Lewis): 16th President of the United States of America from March 1861 until his death by assassination in April 1865. He was the president throughout the entire Civil War and one of the highest regarded presidents in American history. He is best known for abolishing slavery under the 13th Amendment of the Constitution and for leading the Union/The North to victory in the Civil War.
- **Mary Todd Lincoln** (Sally Field): Lincoln's wife and the First Lady of the United States from 1861-1865. Mentally unstable and extremely depressed due to the death of two of her children (and after the film takes place, a total of three children), she blames herself for her husband's unhappiness.
- **Robert Lincoln** (Joseph Gordon-Levitt): Lincoln's eldest son and his only child to make it to adulthood. Studying to become a lawyer in Boston, he quits school and enlists, against his parents' wishes, in the Union Army. Later in life, he became the U.S. Secretary of War and U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom.
- **Edward Lincoln**: Lincoln's second son who died when he was three years old in 1850. His death is said to what sparked the beginning of Mary Todd's severe depression.
- **William "Willie" Lincoln**: Lincoln's third son who passed in 1862 from Typhoid Fever. Dying at 11 years of age, his death set Mary Todd Lincoln into an ever deeper depression and severe mental instability.
- **Thomas "Tad" Lincoln** (Gulliver McGrath): Lincoln's youngest son who frequently interrupted his father's meetings and ran freely around The White House. He outlived his father, but died in 1871 at the age of 18 from Tuberculosis.

### KEY PEOPLE IN LINCOLN'S CABINET

- **William Seward** (David Strathairn): Secretary of State during the Lincoln Administration. A loyal member of the Republican Party, he severely opposed slavery and was a huge supporter of the 13th Amendment. Although not mentioned in *Lincoln*, Seward was also attacked the night of Lincoln's assassination, but survived.
- **Edwin Stanton** (Bruce McGill): Secretary of War from 1862 – 1868. He helped to manage the Union Army and lead the North to victory.
- **Gideon Welles** (Grainger Hines): Secretary of the Navy from 1861 – 1869.
- **Montgomery Blair** (Byron Jennings): U.S. Postmaster General from 1861 – 1864, Lincoln accepted Blair's early resignation – and makes a snarky comment about his early resignation in the film.
- **William Dennison, Jr.** (James 'Ike' Eichling): U.S. Postmaster General from 1864 – 1866, succeeding Blair.

- **James Speed** (Richard Topol): U.S. Attorney General from 1864 – 1866. He became a part of the Radical Republicans and advocated for African-American males the right to vote.
- **John Palmer Usher** (Dakin Matthews): A kind and unobtrusive man, Usher was Secretary of the Interior from 1863 – 1865.

## MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

- **Thaddeus Stevens** (Tommy Lee Jones): Representing Pennsylvania’s 9th district from 1859-1868, he was one of Congress’ most influential and outspoken members and lead the Radical Republicans. As demonstrated in *Lincoln*, he had very heavy influence in the passing of the 13th Amendment.
- **George Yeaman** (Michael Stuhlbarg): A Democrat from Kentucky, Yeaman voted against his party in support of the 13th Amendment.
- **Wells A. Hutchins** (Walton Goggins): A Democrat from Ohio, Hutchins also voted against his party in support of the passing of the 13th Amendment.
- **Charles Sumner** (John Hutton): Changing parties many times, he is best known as a Republican Senator from Massachusetts. Sumner helped lead the Radical Republicans alongside Thaddeus Stevens and supported anti-slavery.
- **Fernando Wood** (Lee Pace): A Democratic Representative from New York, he was sympathetic to the Confederacy and was in high favor of slavery.
- **James Mitchell Ashley** (David Costabile): An Abolitionist Republican from Ohio. He had a large role in supporting Union Troops to defeat the South.

## OTHER KEY PEOPLE IN SUPPORT OF THE UNION

- **W.N. Bilbo** (James Spader): A political operative who was once imprisoned but freed by Lincoln. He, along with two partners, lobbied members of Congress to support and pass the 13th Amendment.
- **Elizabeth Keckley** (Gloria Reuben): A former slave who became the personal modiste for Mary Todd Lincoln. As a freed slave who worked for the First Family, she took advantage of her position and became a civil activist to help blacks later in life.
- **Francis Preston Blair** (Hal Holbrook): The father of Montgomery Blair, he was a supporter and adviser to Lincoln. With Lincoln’s consent, Blair traveled unofficially to Richmond (the Confederacy Capitol) and asked Jefferson Davis to appoint representatives to travel to D.C. to discuss peace negotiations. This resulted in the Hampton Roads Conference (Reference “Civil War Events”).
- **Ulysses S. Grant** (Jared Harris): Commander of the United States Army from 1864 – 1869 and led the Union to victory over the Confederacy. He was an alcoholic and later became President of the United States – and is reputed for not being one of the best men for the job.
- **Lydia Smith** (S. Epatha Merkerson): Congressman Thaddeus Steven’s biracial housekeeper. Stevens never married, and Smith lived with him, romantically, for many years.
- **John Hay** (Joseph Cross): Personal assistant and secretary to Lincoln.
- **John George Nicolay** (Jeremy Strong): Working with John Hay, Nicolay was also a secretary to Lincoln. The two collaborated together on Lincoln’s official biography, published in ten volumes from 1890-1894.

## IMPORTANT FIGURES OF THE CONFEDERACY

- **Alexander Stephens** (Jackie Earle Haley): Vice President of the Confederate States of America. He met with Lincoln in February 1865 on a failed attempt to make peace and end the Civil War, but it was a failed attempt mainly due to Stephens’ disagreement with the passing of the 13th Amendment.
- **R.M.T. Hunter** (Mike Shiflett): Secretary of State for the Confederacy from 1861-1862, and then became a Senator from Virginia from 62-65. He attended the Hampton Roads Conference with Stephens and Campbell.
- **John Archibald Campbell** (Gregory Itzin): Assistant Secretary of War for the Confederacy and attended the Hampton Roads Conference with Hunter and Stephens.

- **Robert E. Lee** (Christopher Boyer): General of the Confederate Army, he surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, ending the Civil War.
- **Jefferson Davis**: President of the Confederate States of America.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- **November 6, 1860**: Lincoln is elected as the 16th president of the United States with 180 Electoral votes and 40% of the popular vote. His campaign focused heavily on not spreading slavery into non-slave states.
- **December 20, 1860 – June 8, 1861**: Eleven southern states seceded from the U.S.A. and form the Confederate States of America: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina.
- **March 4, 1861**: Lincoln is inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States. Seven states have seceded from the Union at this point. Lincoln states he would not accept the secession and hoped to create a peaceful resolution.
- **April 12-14, 1861**: Shots are fired and The Battle of Fort Sumter occurs, thus marking the start of the Civil War. Four more states will secede after the first battle of the War.
- **June 1861**: West Virginia is born, not wanting to secede with the rest of Virginia as a slave state. Four other slave states commit to staying part of the Union, including Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri.
- **February 20, 1862**: Lincoln's third child, Willie, dies at the age of 11.
- **January 1, 1863**: Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, stating that all slaves in areas of rebellion were free.
- **July 1-3, 1863**: The Battle of Gettysburg occurs, which was the bloodiest and most Northern fought battle of the Civil War. Union troops defeated Lee's Confederate Army, which ended Lee's invasion of the North.
- **November 8, 1864**: Lincoln is re-elected as the President of the United States for a second term, winning 212 electoral votes and 55% of the popular vote. This is the first time since 1832 a President has won re-election, and the first time since 1812 there was an election during a war.
- **January 31, 1865**: The 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution is passed, abolishing slavery.
- **February 3, 1865**: Confederate representatives Alexander Stephens, R.M.T. Hunter, John Archibald Campbell, meet Union representatives President Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward to negotiate peace terms aboard the *River Queen* near Newport News, Virginia. Lincoln refused to consent to a treaty and demanded the C.S.A. to voluntarily abolish slavery, and also to fully restore the Union. The conference was unsuccessful, as the C.S.A. could not agree to Lincoln's terms, and merely wanted to be recognized as an independent country.
- **April 1-3, 1865**: After 10 months of fighting in the Richmond-Petersburg area, Richmond, the Capitol of the Confederacy, falls to the Union.
- **April 7-9, 1865**: On April 7, Grant's troops surrounded Lee's, and within the next two days, Grant called upon Lee to surrender. On April 9, the two generals met at Appomattox Court House in Virginia, which marked the official end of the Civil War.
- **April 14, 1865**: Lincoln is shot while watching a play at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. by John Wilkes Booth. Booth was a well-known stage actor, who was a Marylander and sympathetic towards the Confederacy and a supporter of slavery. Lincoln died the next morning.

## Film Study Guide Questions

### Opening Titles

1. What is the purpose of the scene consisting of Lincoln speaking with the black and white soldiers?
  - Answers will vary. Students may realize that the scene demonstrates how Lincoln was able and willing to listen to the common soldiers, both black and white. The scene also raises the issue of equality for blacks who are willing to fight for the North. Also shows that Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was a source of inspiration for the North.

### Lincoln's Dream (6:11)

2. Symbolically, what does Lincoln's dream represent to both Lincoln himself and to his wife?
  - Answers will vary, especially since this is early in the film. But students may see this as Lincoln's awareness that he is being carried forward to a place he is unsure of (in the context of the film, the consequences of the 13th Amendment). Mary Lincoln feels it is his anxiety before a big battle.
3. What is the unspoken connection that Lincoln makes between his son and the photographs?
  - The photographs are of black boys of a similar age. Perhaps he is making the connection that regardless of skin color, the boys are more similar than different.

### A New Amendment (13:57)

4. Who is Seward, the man Lincoln is speaking with in his carriage and in his office? What role does he seem to play?
  - Seward is Lincoln's Secretary of State. He seems to be an advisor to Lincoln.
5. What are some of the obstacles that Lincoln faced in passing the 13th Amendment?
  - First you need 2/3 support in the House of Representatives, and Lincoln's Republican Party had a slim majority in the House, and not all of them were abolitionists. Secondly, the Amendment had already failed 10 months prior. Third, he would need some Democrats to support the Amendment, which was highly unlikely. Finally, while some popular support existed if passing it would end the war, if the war ended before the amendment was passed, Seward feels that the public's support would evaporate.

### War Powers (23:15)

6. Which port do some members of the Cabinet support bombarding? Why?
  - Wilmington. It is the last port the Confederates have. If it falls, they feel they can then get to Richmond.
7. Why are some Cabinet members upset with Lincoln?
  - They are upset that he is again trying to pass the 13th Amendment. They feel in Emancipation Proclamation was enough.
8. Why does Lincoln want so badly to pass the 13th Amendment?
  - The Emancipation Proclamation might be deemed illegal one day and the freed slaves would be returned to bondage. If the amendment is in place, the slaves would be forever legally free.
9. What does Lincoln mean when he says, "We're whalers"?
  - It's a metaphor. The amendment is like a whale they've been hunting, and it is a dangerous animal, but they nearly have it.
10. Who are the Radicals?
  - The strong abolitionists in the Republican Party.
11. Why do the Radicals distrust Lincoln?
  - They think he doesn't really want to pass the amendment, and that he is just using the threat of it to end the war quickly. If the war ends too fast, then the newly rejoined southern states would never pass the amendment. The Radicals want to wait until after the next election to pass it easily, and then end the war.

### The House Debate (35:10)

12. Which party was trying to make the case that Lincoln was a dictator and was opposed to the 13th Amendment?
  - The Democratic Party
13. Who returns home, much to the delight of Mary Lincoln and Tad, and where has he been?

- Her son, Robert. He's been at school in Boston.

### **Getting Out The Vote (40:30)**

14. What does Mr. Blair plead with Lincoln to do?
  - Talk with a delegation from the South and make peace before the war bloodshed restarts in the spring.
15. What does Secretary Seward and his hired lobbyists seek to do?
  - Find House Representatives who might be swayed to support the 13th Amendment. Specifically they need Democrats to join the Republicans in support.
16. What type of Democrat do they think they can influence and how will they sway them?
  - Lame duck ones who won't be reelected whom they can offer federal jobs.

### **Seeds Of Time (45:55)**

17. What does Sec. Seward get upset with Lincoln over? Why would he be especially upset?
  - The fact that Lincoln sent Blair to try and broker a peace deal without letting him know. Seward is the Secretary of State and this falls under his area of responsibility.
18. What does Robert want?
  - To enlist in the army.
19. What is Mary grieving over?
  - The death of their son, Willie, three years earlier.

### **Grand Reception (52:55)**

20. Why has Mary Lincoln been investigated in the past?
  - For the amount of money she has been spending in the White House.
21. What does Lincoln want the Mr. Stevens and the Radicals to do in the debate? Why?
  - Tone down their demands for full black equality which might scare off the conservative side of the Republican Party.

### **The Fallen At Wilmington (59:45)**

22. Who is Stanton and what does he want to happen right away?
  - He is the Secretary of Defense. He wants Fort Fisher overcome and Wilmington captured.
23. What news comes over the telegraph?
  - Fort Fisher has been captured but Wilmington hasn't surrendered. Many lives were lost.
24. What strategy do the Democrats adopt in regards to Stevens?
  - They want to get him to lose his temper in front of everyone and reveal his full plans for black equality, which would increase opposition to the 13th Amendment.
25. What fears does the Representative from Kentucky raise about the 13th Amendment?
  - Fears of what 4 million freed blacks might do, and would the Amendment lead to them getting the right to vote? If that happens, might then women get the right to vote?
26. What is causing difficulty for Seward's men in holding onto votes for the Amendment?
  - Rumors that a delegation from the South is seeking an end to the war. If the war ends soon, they don't see the need for the amendment.

### **No Sixteen-Year-Olds Left (1:08)**

27. What does General Grant want Lincoln to do in regards to the Southern offer?
  - Meet with the delegation and end the war.
28. What is Lincoln up in the middle of the night doing?
  - Pardoning soldiers that were to be hung for cowardice or desertion, including a sixteen-year-old.
29. What message does Lincoln send to Grant at first?
  - To send the delegation to Washington.
30. What does Lincoln's knowledge of Euclid convey?
  - That the concept of equality is 2000 years old at least. That it is fairness and justice.
31. How does Lincoln change the message to Grant? Why?
  - He is to bring them partway to Washington, but then wait for further word. He is realizing that if he ends the war now, the amendment may never pass.

### **Equality Under The Law (1:18)**

32. What is Stevens urged to do before his speech?
  - Not push for racial equality, just legal equality.
33. What does Stevens do in his speech?
  - He tries to hold his temper and he maintains that he is seeking legal equality only.
34. Why does he do so?
  - He desperately wants the amendment to pass, no matter what.

### **Robert's Ambition (1:24)**

35. Where do Lincoln and Robert go? Why?
  - To an army hospital. Robert feels it is because Lincoln wants to scare him from joining the army.
36. Why is Robert so adamant about serving in the army?
  - He will be ashamed if he doesn't.
37. What compromise does Lincoln try to make with his wife over Robert's enlistment?
  - He will make sure that Robert serves away from the front lines so that he won't get hurt.
38. What still remains as a point of conflict between Lincoln and Mary?
  - The death of their son, Tad. She can't get past it years later, and she's continually afraid she'll lose another son.
39. What question is raised between Lincoln and his black servant?
  - What will happen to the black race after the amendment passes.

### **Bipartisan Support (1:35)**

40. What does "bipartisan" mean?
  - Two opposing political parties finding common ground and working together.
41. Why does Lincoln visit Seward's men?
  - To hear why they are having difficulty securing the votes and to offer advice on how to proceed.
42. What solution does he propose for securing Representative Coffroth's vote, who is a Democrat?
  - They will pressure the Democratic representative that will lose his seat in a disputed election if the House of Representatives is allowed to choose who won. The Republicans have control of the House.
43. Coffroth offers to switch to the Republican Party and vote for the amendment, but Stevens will not let him. Why?
  - He must vote for the amendment as a Democrat because Stevens wants to show that the amendment has bipartisan support.

### **Fairness And Freedom (1:39)**

44. Why is Yeaman reluctant to change his vote and support the amendment?
  - He hates slavery, but is worried what could happen if blacks are ever given the right to vote.
45. Why does Mr. Hutton hate black people?
  - Because his brother has died in the war and he blames the slaves.
46. What does Lincoln insist must happen now?
  - Slavery must be ended by the 13th Amendment.
47. How many more votes does Lincoln need?
  - Two.

### **The Morning Of The Vote (1:46)**

48. What does Pendleton from Ohio say in his remarks before the vote to try and get a postponement?
  - That there is an offer to end the war from the South.
49. What must Lincoln tell the House? What is the response he gives?
  - He must tell the House whether or not there is a delegation from the South in Washington. He denies knowing that there are peace commissioners in the city or that there are likely to be any.
50. After all of the votes, what is the final result?
  - 56 against and 119 votes for. It passes by two votes.

### **Celebration (2:02)**

51. What does Stevens do with the bill?
  - He takes it and shows it to his black servant, who is also his lover. He asks her to read it to him in bed.
52. When Lincoln sees the delegation, what do they insist upon?
  - Being readmitted to the Union in time to vote against the amendment's ratification.
53. What does Lincoln insist?
  - That the amendment will still be ratified and that the sacrifices made have been worthwhile.

#### **Petersburg Battlefield (2:09)**

54. After Lee surrenders, what does Lincoln tell Grant to do?
  - Let the Confederate soldiers go home. No punishment.
55. How can the toll the war is taking on Lincoln be seen?
  - On his face. He looks much older and more tired.

#### **Now He Belongs To The Ages (2:09)**

56. What foreshadowing is evident as Lincoln walks away down the hall?
  - His image grows darker as he goes and the servant looks concerned or even worried.
57. Where was Lincoln assassinated?
  - At Ford's theater.
58. Which speech is Lincoln giving at the end of the film?
  - His second inaugural address.

## **Film Study Summary**

### **SCENE 1: OPENING TITLES (00:00)**

[EARLY JANUARY 1865]

- **Part 1:** (Washington Navy Yard, nighttime) The film opens with a brief flashback to the Battle of Jenkins Ferry (April 30, 1864). Then it shows two free black soldiers conversing with a seated President Lincoln during a cold, wet evening. They are joined by two nervous, young, white soldiers, who soon begin a revealing discussion about the Gettysburg Address.

### **SCENE 2: LINCOLN'S DREAM (6:11)**

- **Part 2:** (White House interior, nighttime) The second scene opens with a visualization of one of Lincoln's recent dreams. Abraham & Mary Lincoln are then seen inside Mrs. Lincoln's White House boudoir, discussing the dream and other subjects, including the possibility of a new push for the proposed Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing slavery.
- **Part 3:** (White House, 2d floor, nighttime) President Lincoln leaves Mrs. Lincoln, walks down the second floor hallway and lays down with sleeping Tad in his White House office before carrying his youngest son off to bed.
- **Part 4:** (Treasury Department, exterior, morning) There is a brief flagpole dedication, with a very short Lincoln speech and then a carriage ride discussion with Secretary of State Seward and President Lincoln regarding prospects for passage of Thirteenth Amendment; aide John Hay present, shuffling papers.

### **SCENE 3: A NEW AMENDMENT (13:57)**

- **Part 5:** (White House, 2d floor office, daytime) Lincoln & Seward continue their discussion. Mr. and Mrs. Jolly from Jefferson City, Missouri enter the office and Seward uses the couple to illustrate a point about the Thirteenth Amendment.
- **Part 6:** (Blair House, evening) Lincoln and Preston Blair discuss the Thirteenth Amendment and also the possibility of opening peace negotiations with Richmond; also participating are two of Blair's children, Montgomery Blair (former postmaster general) and Elizabeth Blair Lee. Tad Lincoln is present. Afterwards, Preston Blair leaves for Richmond.



#### **SCENE 4: WAR POWERS (23:15)**

- **Part 7:** (White House, morning) The cabinet meeting includes a discussion of the attack on Fort Fisher / Wilmington, NC and then turns to a discussion of the proposed Thirteenth Amendment that includes vigorous objections from Secretary of Interior John Usher and a lengthy defense of the abolition amendment and his wartime emancipation policies by President Lincoln.
- **Part 8:** (White House office, afternoon) Lincoln, Seward and Congressman James Ashley discuss plans to bring the Thirteenth Amendment up for a new vote. Ashley objects to the plan, which seems to surprise him, and fears defeat. Lincoln and Seward press hard.
- **Part 9:** (Capitol Hill, office of Rep. Thaddeus Stevens, evening) Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee, Stevens, hosts a meeting of Radical Republicans to discuss their position on whether or not to hold a new vote for the proposed Thirteenth Amendment. There is vigorous debate, especially about Lincoln's intentions. The group includes Speaker Schuyler Colfax, Senator Benjamin "Bluff" Wade, and Congressman Ashley (sponsor of the Thirteenth Amendment). Also present is a fictional congressman, Asa Vintner Litton, who appears to be a figure somewhat based upon Congressman Henry Winter Davis, who had been author, along with Sen. Wade, of the Radical plan for Reconstruction, the Wade-Davis bill, which President Lincoln had pocket vetoed in 1864.
- **Part 10:** (Hotel, Washington, DC, night) Secretary of State Seward meets with three lobbyists, Robert Latham, Richard Schell and W.N. Bilbo. They discuss a strategy for persuading –and possibly bribing—selected lame duck Democratic congressmen into supporting the Thirteenth Amendment.

#### **SCENE 5: THE HOUSE DEBATE (35:10)**

[JANUARY 9, 1865]

- **Part 11:** (House of Representatives, daytime) The House Debate Begins. This scene attempts to portray the intensity of Civil War era politics and features a series of insults traded across the partisan aisle between Northern Democrats such as Fernando Wood from New York and Radical Republicans such as Thaddeus Stevens from Pennsylvania and Hiram Price from Iowa. The Seward lobbyists sit in the packed gallery (which includes Mary Lincoln and her dressmaker Elizabeth Keckley) and strategize quietly about lame duck Democrats whom they might target.
- **Part 12:** (White House, daytime) Robert Lincoln returns from Harvard to a crowded White House corridor filled with petitioners and his younger brother Tad being pulled wildly along in a cart by a goat. Robert talks with his mother.

#### **SCENE 6: GETTING OUT THE VOTE (40:30)**

- **Part 13:** (Various locations around Washington, day and night) Robert Lincoln tries to see his father, but President Lincoln focuses instead on finishing a discussion with Preston Blair, who has returned from Richmond with news about peace talks. A series of short snapshots show the Seward Lobby (Latham, Schell and Bilbo) in action, targeting a series of lame duck Democratic congressmen with offers of administration jobs and cash in exchange for switching votes in favor of the Thirteenth Amendment.

#### **SCENE 7: SEEDS OF TIME (45:55)**

[JANUARY 11, 1865]

- **Part 14:** (White House office, early evening) The President and Secretary Seward discuss the state of the lobbying efforts and Seward reveals his anger at the President's decision to authorize peace negotiations without consulting him. The scene then shifts briefly to "No Man's Land" outside of Petersburg, VA and captures the Confederate officials being transported into Union lines, before returning the point-of-view to the White House for the heated argument between Seward and Lincoln over Blair's intervention in the peace process.

[JANUARY 14, 1865]

- **Part 15:** (White House bedrooms, late afternoon) Tad and Robert are in Lincoln’s bedroom while the president dresses for the Grand Reception. Robert is pushing his father to allow him to serve in the military. Tad has a revealing discussion with free black servants William Slade and Elizabeth Keckley about slavery. The president then walks down the hall and discovers Mary Lincoln sitting alone in their dead son Willie’s former bedroom. They discuss her grief, recalling how he had died during a previous White House reception in 1862.

#### SCENE 8: GRAND RECEPTION (52:55)

- **Part 16:** (White House reception room, early evening) Mary Lincoln cautiously greets leading Radicals in the receiving line for the Grand Reception and engages in a particularly tension-filled conversation with Thaddeus Stevens.
- **Part 17:** (White House kitchen, evening) President Lincoln and Congressman Stevens have a private discussion about the proposed anti-slavery amendment and a revealing argument about differences in strategy and tactics.
- **Part 18:** (Mary Lincoln’s boudoir, White House, late evening) Lincoln helps his wife undress after the reception but they are interrupted by news brought by aide John Nicolay that the assault has begun on Fort Fisher outside of Wilmington.

#### SCENE 9: FALLEN AT WILMINGTON (59:45)

- **Part 19:** (War Department telegraph office, late night) There is commotion and anxiety apparent in the telegraph office as Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, Secretary of Navy Gideon Welles and telegraph officer Thomas Eckert discuss the assault on Fort Fisher. Suddenly, a seated President Lincoln interrupts the exchange with a funny story about Ethan Allen that appears to relieve some of the tension until news finally arrives that Union forces have prevailed at the Fort, though not yet at the city of Wilmington, and at the cost of yet another round of bloody casualties.

[JANUARY 16, 17, 18, OR 19, 1865]

- **Part 20:** (House chamber, daytime) Democratic congressman Fernando Wood discusses the aftermath of the bloody assault on Fort Fisher with one of his colleagues while Radical Republican leaders gather among themselves. Democratic congressman George Yeaman (KY) announces that he plans to oppose the anti-slavery amendment while some of the Seward lobbyists plot ways to switch his vote from their perch in the gallery.
- **Part 21:** (House committee room, daytime) Fernando Wood reveals to Congressman Clay Hawkins that he has become aware of Hawkins’ plans to sell his vote on the amendment.
- **Part 22:** (Outside in woods, morning) Clay Hawkins and W.N. Bilbo, the lobbyist, are hunting and discussing their deal. Hawkins seems spooked by the threats against him and literally starts to run away from the deal and Bilbo as they argue over his commitment.
- **Part 23:** (Washington DC alley, afternoon) The lobbyists confront Secretary of State Seward in his carriage explaining their lack of progress. There is a quick cut-away showing how one congressman tried to shoot W.N. Bilbo outside a tavern. The lobbyists then try to convince Seward that the president needs to deny the rumors about secret peace talks.

#### SCENE 10: NO SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLDS LEFT (1:08)

[JANUARY 20, 1865]

- **Part 24:** (Outside City Point, on board *River Queen* steamship, daytime) General U.S. Grant negotiates with the Confederate officials, arguing with Vice President Alexander Stephens over references to “two countries” in the official dispatch the Confederates have prepared. Grant sends Lincoln a telegram urging him to meet with the Confederate envoys himself.

- **Part 25:** (Seward residence, Lafayette Square, late night) Seward finishes reading the telegram from Grant with Lincoln present, wrapped in a shawl. They discuss how to proceed.
- **Part 26:** (White House hallway, late night) President Lincoln paces in the hallway, sits lost in thought in his office, and then turns up in Nicolay's and Hay's bedroom in the White House, waking up his aides to discuss a pardon case. Realizing his boss's agony, Hay offers company, but Lincoln claims he is best left alone.

[JANUARY 21, 1865]

- **Part 27:** (War Department telegraph office, pre-dawn) Lincoln now has wandered over to the telegraph office, still covered in his shawl, where he is finishing a draft reply to General Grant. Two young telegraph operators (David Homer Bates and Sam Beckwith) are with him and discuss various topics, including being "fitted" for the times and the nature of Euclid's proofs about equality, before Lincoln finally decides to instruct Grant to bring the Confederate envoys to Hampton Roads, VA.

### SCENE 11: EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW (1:18)

[JANUARY 27, 1865]

- **Part 28:** (House of Representatives, morning) Anxiety rises as Thaddeus Stevens prepares to take the floor. Democratic congressmen led by Fernando Wood attempt to bait the old Radical leader into making intemperate remarks about social revolution and equality. Stevens stubbornly refuses to say anything beyond the amendment's goal of preserving "equality before the law." Mary Lincoln watches in admiration but her black dressmaker, Elizabeth Keckley, despises the nature of the debate and leaves the gallery abruptly. Stevens controls his tongue but hurls insults at his Democratic opponents. His junior colleague, Asa Vintner Litton, later expresses disappointment in the performance and Stevens attempts to explain and defend his refusal to promise support for civil rights at that moment.

### SCENE 12: ROBERT'S AMBITION (1:24)

- **Part 29:** (Washington, temporary army hospital, daytime) The president and his son Robert are visiting wounded soldiers and discussing Robert's thwarted desire to join the army. Robert suspects the trip to see the wounded was designed to discourage him from serving. They argue and President Lincoln slaps his son outside the hospital. Robert leaves in anger.
- **Part 30:** (Mary Lincoln's boudoir, White House, nighttime) The president has decided to let his eldest son join the army and now tries to explain the decision to his wife, who fiercely objects. They argue and he leaves without winning her over.
- **Part 31:** (Washington theater, evening) The Lincoln's are attending the opera to view a performance of "Faust." Elizabeth Keckley is also present. Mary Lincoln reveals to her husband that the only way she can reconcile his various decisions will be if he succeeds in securing the Thirteenth Amendment. That will end the war, in her opinion, and prevent her son from risking his life.
- **Part 32:** (outside White House, nighttime) Elizabeth Keckley confronts President Lincoln alone after the night at the opera, thanking him for his "concern" about abolishing slavery but urging him to do even more. They discuss what might happen after the proposed amendment passes. Keckley claims that blacks are not worried about racial prejudices and their social and economic prospects –yet. "Freedom's first," she says firmly.

### SCENE 13: BIPARTISAN SUPPORT (1:35)

[JANUARY 28, 29 OR 30, 1865]

- **Part 33:** (Hotel, Washington, late night) The disheveled, exhausted lobbyists are gathered in their hotel room. Seward enters with Lincoln in tow. The men are stunned. Bilbo even curses. Lincoln discusses strategy with them and begins firing off a series of critical directives, especially regarding a Pennsylvania Democrat named Alexander Coffroth.

- **Part 34:** (Thaddeus Stevens' office, night) A nervous Alexander Coffroth enters Stevens's office. The Radical leader informs him that if he wants to hold his seat he must switch his vote in favor of the amendment. Coffroth agrees.
- **Part 35:** (Hotel, Washington, and late night) A return to the previous point-of-view as Lincoln continues his conversation with the lobbyists, now focusing on George Yeaman, a Democratic congressman from Kentucky.

#### SCENE 14: FAIRNESS AND FREEDOM (1:39)

- **Part 36:** (Seward's office, State Department, daytime) Lincoln and Seward are facing a nervous Congressman Yeaman who is resisting any switch of his vote in favor of the amendment. Lincoln attempts to persuade him, answering various objections, but the conversation ends inconclusively.
- **Part 37:** (Home of Congressman Hutton, Washington, and night) Lincoln discusses the amendment outside the front door of a Democratic congressman named Hutton, whose brother has died fighting for the Union.
- **Part 38:** (Lincoln's White House office, night) The president is engaged in deep strategic discussions with Congressman Ashley, Secretary Seward, Preston and Montgomery Blair. Both aides Nicolay and Hay are present. Ashley objects to the secret peace talks. Lincoln flashes anger, demanding action "Now, now now!" When the men appear uncertain about how to obtain the remaining votes, Lincoln asserts loudly, "I am the President of the United States, *clothed in immense power!*"

#### SCENE 15: MORNING OF THE VOTE (1:46)

[JANUARY 31, 1865]

- **Part 39:** (House of Representatives, morning) Thaddeus Stevens arrives first on the morning of the vote for the Thirteenth Amendment. The gallery fills with "well-to-do black people", some Radical Republican senators, Lincoln's aides, the Seward lobbyists and Mary Lincoln with Elizabeth Keckley. Congressman Vintner welcomes the black guests. The final statements begin but Democratic leader George Pendleton interrupts to announce that there are Confederate peace envoys in the city. There are calls to postpone the vote. Aaron Haddam, a conservative Republican from Kentucky, seeks guidance from Preston Blair, also seated in the gallery, who nods. Haddam then announces that conservatives cannot support the amendment "if a peace offer is being held hostage to its success." The Seward lobbyists and Lincoln's White House aides Nicolay and Hay rush from the Capitol to the White House.
- **Part 40:** (Lincoln's White House office, afternoon) Hay makes it to Lincoln first, with Bilbo, heavily winded, behind him. Lincoln reads the motion from the House and crafts a response. Reading over his shoulder, Hay worries about the president making any false representations to Congress. Lincoln denies doing so and insists that they take his reply back to the Congress.

#### SCENE 16: THIS IS HISTORY (1:52)

- **Part 41:** (House of Representatives, afternoon) Congressman James Ashley reads Lincoln's response which simply denies that any Confederate envoys are "in the city." The Democrats denounce this as a "lawyer's dodge" but conservative Republicans accept the answer and the voting begins. The roll call proceeds by state. Meanwhile, quick cutaways show Lincoln reading with Tad during the vote and anxious crowds following the results outside of the Capitol and at Grant's headquarters in City Point.
- **Part 42:** (House of Representatives, late afternoon) The roll call proceeds until final passage is achieved. In the end, Beanpole Burton, Coffroth, Hutton, Yeaman, Hawkins, and the Speaker himself (Schuyler Colfax) who usually doesn't participate in voting—all cast affirmative votes. The announcement sets off wild celebrations in the gallery, though the seats of the Seward lobbyists are now noticeably empty. Thaddeus Stevens takes the final bill from the stunned clerk, promising to return it the next morning.

#### SCENE 17: CELEBRATION (2:02)

- **Part 43:** (Stevens residence, evening) Thaddeus Stevens limps home on his club foot carrying the final bill and presents it to Lydia Smith, his black housekeeper. They are lovers as well, however, and the scene switches to their bedroom where they lay together joyfully reading the words of the Amendment.

[FEBRUARY 3, 1865]

- **Part 44:** (Fortress Monroe, Hampton Roads, VA, late afternoon) President Lincoln arrives to meet with the Confederate envoys and Secretary Seward on board the *River Queen*. The discussion veers back-and-forth but without resolution. Lincoln won't yield to any of the Confederate demands.

### SCENE 18: PETERSBURG (2:09)

[APRIL 3, 1865]

- **Part 45:** (Outside Petersburg, VA, daytime) Lincoln moves along on horseback past dead bodies that litter a recent battlefield. Then we see Lincoln seated with Grant at the general's temporary headquarters in what is now Union-occupied Petersburg. They discuss surrender terms for the Confederates. Lincoln observes that he had never seen carnage like he had seen that day.

[APRIL 9, 1865]

- Quick cut-away showing General Lee surrendering to General Grant at Appomattox. Robert Lincoln is present as a junior officer on Grant's staff.

[APRIL 14, 1865]

- **Part 46:** (Washington streets, carriage ride, afternoon) The President and Mrs. Lincoln are having a happy conversation about their future travel plans now that the war has essentially ended.

### SCENE 19: NOW HE BELONGS TO THE AGES (2:09)

- **Part 47:** (White House, evening) The president is getting ready to go to the theatre with help from his servant, William Slade. Congressman James Ashley and Speaker of the House Schuyler Colfax are with the president talking about his recent comments on the possibility of allowing blacks to vote. They report that Thaddeus Stevens is "furious" that Lincoln qualified the extension of suffrage within certain limits but the tone of the conversation is friendly. Nicolay interrupts to report that Mrs. Lincoln is waiting in the carriage. The men watch as Lincoln slowly walks down the hall and leaves the White House.
- **Part 48:** (Grover's Theatre, evening) A performance on the stage is interrupted by the announcement that the president has been shot at another theater. Tad Lincoln, in the audience, is rushed out in anguish as pandemonium erupts.

[APRIL 15, 1865]

- **Part 49:** (Peterson's Boarding House, early morning) The dying president lays on the bed in the residence across from where he had been shot at Ford's Theatre. Cabinet officials, officers and the president's family gather around him as he dies at 7:22 am.

[MARCH 4, 1865]

- **Part 50:** (East Portico of the Capitol, daytime) The movie ends with a flashback to President Lincoln delivering his Second Inaugural Address.

### SCENE 20: CREDITS (2:21)