

**What does the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln  
mean to the people of the United States?**

*Third Prize (High School Students) – Svetlana Vishnevskaya, Kingisepp Gymnasium  
(Kingisepp, Leningrad Oblast)*

**«He had a dream...»**

*I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia  
the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners  
will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood<sup>[1]</sup>*

*Martin Luther King*

«Every city or house divided against itself shall not stand»<sup>[2]</sup> – words which are closed to everybody who is acquainted with New Testament and Sermons on the Mount of Jesus Christ. Does everybody know that during elections in Federal Assembly of Illinois these words loudly rang out from ardent fighter's lips for unity – Abraham Lincoln, the 16<sup>th</sup> president of United States of America in future?

Today the name of Abraham Lincoln is apprehended only with an edition «great» or «outstanding». But history was not always on emancipator's side: childhood, which was associated with excessively hard work at a farm, permanent shortage of money early in life and, occasionally, unequal fight in pursuit of a dream. But spirit was not broken down. Falling to knees beneath the unfairness of fate, Abraham Lincoln always stood up with proudly raised up head to prove once again to himself: «Not a single kind deed, even an unimportant one, disappears in vain»<sup>[3]</sup>. Solely an ambitious man, who knows poverty and sorrow of destitute nation not through hearsay, is able to create peace, which exhausted ordinary people thirst for.

In the first place, this distinguished strategist was a decent individual, not an inveterate peanut politician. A tall man with a slipshod beard and rugged features, sometimes melancholic and inclined to depressions, but always hopeful for the best man with a sense of humor, exactly like this I imagine Abraham Lincoln.

American philosopher George Santayana repeated: «Who does not know history might be doomed to experience it again<sup>[4]</sup>». In my opinion, it forces us again and again to come back to the past, especially to the moments, which radically changed today's morning.

The established Emancipation Proclamation was signed by talented politician in 1863. Strike out this date off the chronology - possibly, South America of XXI century would turn into the part of the Utopian Slave-holding Area!

Equality of rights, written in the Bible, starts to arise due to the indestructible course of Lincoln. The dark-skinned and African Americans got the rights, existence of which they even did not guess, new opportunities and, the main thing, freedom.

Nowadays, demographic statistics shows that there are about 42 millions people of, so-called, «black race» living in the United States of America. Would this index have been the same, if the Emancipation Proclamation had not been passed? Could black people imagine the country, where their nation was thought to be born as a man power and social outcasts, will be ruled by dark-skinned president? If the decree of letting dark-skinned Americans to vote had not been signed in 1870 (after couple of years since Abraham Lincoln had died), would the ceremony of inauguration of Barack Obama have been held at 20<sup>th</sup> of January this year?

A lot of followers tried to pursue a course assigned by 16<sup>th</sup> captain of the United States' Boat. But turning over pages of history, we see that Lincoln's principle: «All men are created equal<sup>[5]</sup>», has been forgotten once in a while. One day Martin Luther King in his public speech said: «Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. <...> But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacle of segregation and the chains of discrimination<sup>[6]</sup>». These facts are an illustration of human selfishness, cruelty and spite.

«This nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government: of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth<sup>[7]</sup>», – Abraham Lincoln ends The Gettysburg Address by these words. And what do we see today? America is prospering day by day, people breathe freely, there is no clear-cut racial discrimination and everybody makes common cause, justifying the name of their country – people are UNITED!

In XXI century we could only be delighted with long sight of this amazing person. After about two hundreds years we piously revere Abraham Lincoln's memory. Now that all

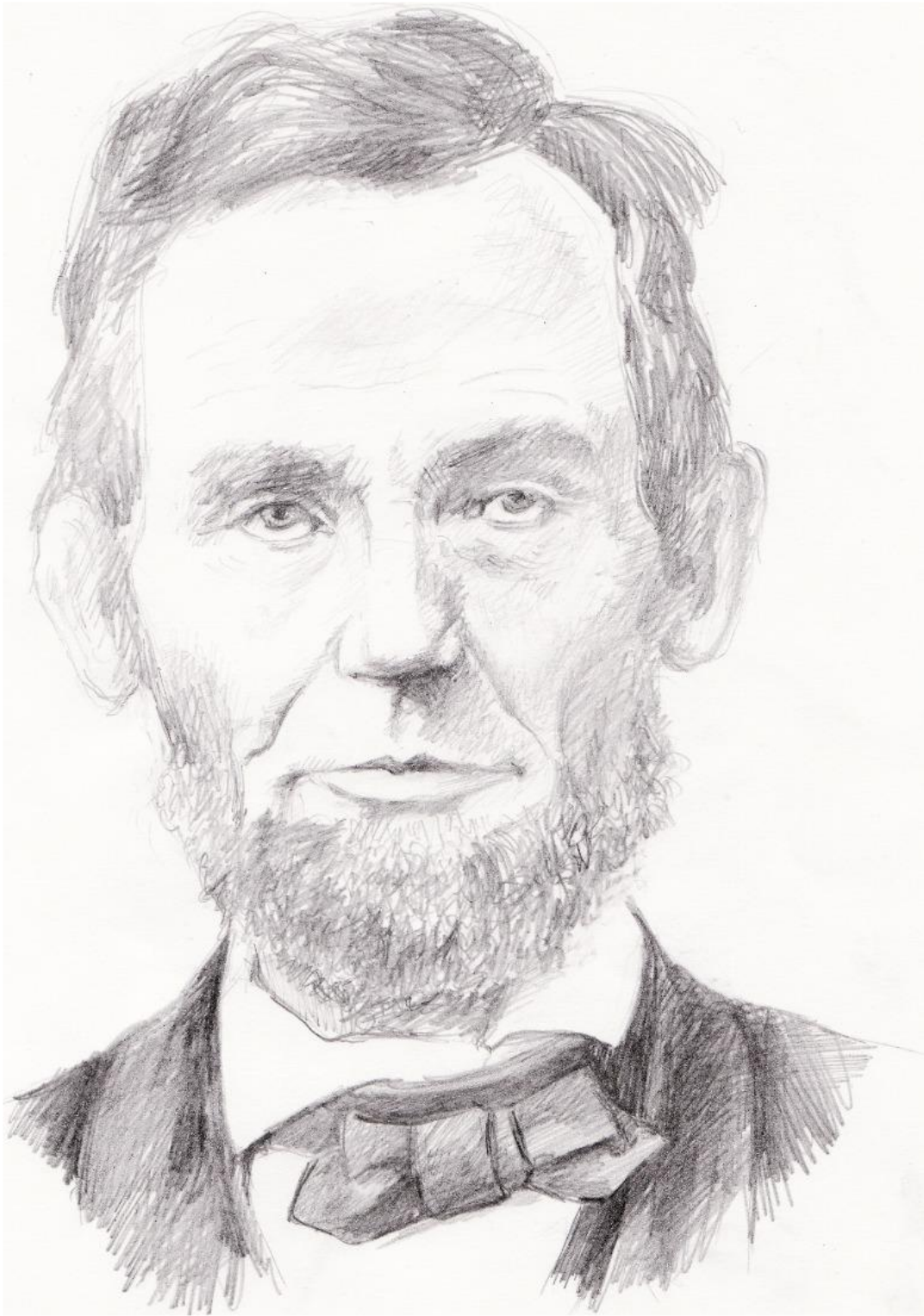
the smoke is gone and victory is finally belongs to Americans, for freedom of whom loving father of America zealously has been fought for.

*«And this be our motto: «In God is our trust». <...>  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!<sup>[8]</sup>»*

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Portrait was drawn 25<sup>th</sup> of April in honor of Abraham Lincoln's Bicentennial.