

As Mr. Guest said, "There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done, there are thousands to prophesy failure." This statement shows the pessimistic ideas of society. Everyone seems so quick to knock the other down. To be negative. But not all were like this. There are a select few that showed optimism in times of dark times. One of them being President Lincoln. As 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, he had the task to keep the union together when a deep divide keeps them apart.

President Lincoln grew up in a log cabin in his youth in a backwater town in the middle of nowhere. He grew up not knowing how to read or write but his parents always taught him the value of being kind. Later in life, he became a lawyer and kept up his ideal of kindness. As he ran for Senate, a good handful of people said this man with no history, a bachelor's in law, and no government history cannot and should not run for any political office. But, as Guest would say, "He took off his coat and took off his hat, and the first thing we knew he begun it. With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin, he started to sing as he tackled the thing that could not be done and he did it."

President Lincoln ran for president and before he knew it, he was sitting in the White House. But the nation was on the brink of war. The industrial North opposed the agricultural South's idea of slavery. The North thought all people, no matter of skin color, should be able to work, vote, and act like normal citizens. But the South's economy would plummet if slaves were removed. Thus, the South seceded and the Civil War began. However, Lincoln buckled in with a bit of a grin and tackled the thing that could not be done and he did it. He led an army into the fiercest war America has witnessed and freed an entire race from the shackles of involuntary servitude. He set down the railways for the train of racial equality to run. However, even now, that train isn't finished. It hasn't even left the station. However, we must buckle in with a bit of a grin and go at it.

In closing, President Lincoln best demonstrates Mr. Guest's poem of optimism due to his perseverance in a time of crisis. He led a country through the trials and tribulations of captivity and slavery supporters. And even after his unfortunate death, his legacy lives on in our Civil War Amendments, statues, and museums.