**Teaching**

Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address

**PART THREE: The Words that Touch the Soul of America**

A. Invitation for Lincoln to offer “a few appropriate remarks”
   1. Public duties seemingly would preclude his coming' 
   2. Personal reasons likely to prevent it... yet he came!
   3. Dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery

B. Would he say? Presumably, not much.
   1. Yet every phrase, each word was carefully chosen
   2. Key repeated words and concepts
      a. “Great”: the importance of the moment
      b. “New”: we don’t have to be stuck in a bad situation
      c. “Here”: history always has a place.
      d. “Nation”: what is at stake
      e. “People”: their concern is what it's all about
      f. “We”: we are all in this together
      g. “Dedicated”: the essential attitude
      h. “Consecrated”: this is holy ground
      i. “Devotion”: our commitment to freedom
      j. “Dead”: the grievous reality
      k. “Living”: what we do with our lives makes a difference
      l. “But”: a change in direction
      m. “Cannot”: not everything is possible, but remember what is

3. Mostly very simple words

4. The scope of the issue being addressed
   a. Local focus
   b. Yet a national issue
   c. With global implications

5. The inevitable flow of time and events
   a. Past
   b. Near past
   c. Present
d. Near future

e. Future

6. Contrast between birth/life and death/dying

7. Other subtle images
   a. Birth, christening, and coming of age
   b. The marriage union

PART FOUR: The Ramifications

A. The uncertainty of the outcome
   1. A precarious future
   2. Yet God is somehow involved
   3. What others did. What we must do.

B. An important shift occurring
   1. Not just an effort to save the Union
   2. Now the effort to preserve its principles
      a. Vibrant democracy
      b. Liberty for all
      c. Equality

C. The challenge that now faces us
   1. An unfinished work
   2. The great task remaining

D. The hope of a nation renewed
   1. Its constitution in accord with its principles
   2. Truly one people
   3. Freedom fully formed: democracy, equality, union

Recommended reading