

Franklin Roosevelt's First Inaugural Address

1. Vocabulary-make sure that you can define the following terms from the speech: induction, candor, curtailment, languishes, incompetence, abdicated, unscrupulous, indicted, foreclosure, sanctity, strife, feasible.
2. What is the purpose(s) of first paragraph? Why does he use the phrases, "convert retreat into advance" and "essential to victory"?
3. What are common difficulties in 2nd and 3rd paragraph? What does FDR say about them?
4. Who are the "rulers of the exchange of mankind's goods" that he refers to in the 4th paragraph? What have they done?
5. How does he define happiness in the 5th paragraph?
6. What are the two ways to "put people to work" mentioned in the 6th paragraph?
7. What change does he propose in the role of government in the 7th and 8th paragraph? What are some examples that he cites?
8. Summarize FDR's point in paragraphs 10-12. How does this relate to any of the ideas in an earlier paragraph?
9. What is the subject of paragraph 13 and what is he saying about it?
10. What proposal is he making in paragraphs 14-16? What kind of progression is he describing? What is he saying about presidential power?
11. Compare this speech to Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address. What similarities do you see regarding the ideas expressed and the situations that they're in?