



Poems with Two Voices



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- ❑ Offers two perspectives or opposing points of view
- ❑ A dialogue
- ❑ Can be done individually or in pairs
- ❑ Each voice speaks individually and then the two voices speak together
- ❑ When speaking together, the voices comment on something they agree or agree to disagree about.
- ❑ In the end the two sides do not have to agree. They may agree to disagree.

Practice:

Robert E. Lee

The idol of the South to this day, Virginian Robert E. Lee had some difficulty in adjusting to the new form of warfare that unfolded with the Civil war, but this did not prevent him from keeping the Union armies in Virginia at bay for almost three years. The son of Revolutionary War hero "Light Horse" Harry Lee—who fell into disrepute in his later years—attended West Point and graduated second in his class. During his four years at the military academy he did not earn a single demerit and served as the cadet corps' adjutant. Upon his 1829 graduation he was posted to the engineers. Before the Mexican War he served on engineering projects in Georgia, Virginia, and New York. During the war he served on the staffs of John Wool and Winfield Scott.

Following a stint in Baltimore Harbor he became superintendent of the military academy in 1852. When the mounted army was expanded in 1855, Lee accepted the lieutenant colonelcy of the 2nd Cavalry in order to escape from the painfully slow promotion in the engineers. Ordered to western Texas, he served with his regiment until the 1857 death of his father-in-law forced him to ask for a series of leaves to settle the estate.

In 1859 he was called upon to lead a force of marines, to join with the militia on the scene, to put an end to John Brown's Harper's Ferry Raid. Thereafter he served again in Texas until summoned to Washington in 1861 by Winfield Scott who tried to retain Lee in the U. S. service. But the Virginian rejected the command of the Union's field forces on the day after Virginia seceded. He then accepted an invitation to visit Governor

John Letcher in Virginia. His resignation as colonel, 1st Cavalry, to which he had recently been promoted, was accepted on April 25, 1861.

Taken from <http://www.civilwarhome.com/leebio.htm>: May 5, 2005

Ulysses S. Grant

- **Full name:** Hiram Ulysses Grant. It is frequently said that Grant's middle name was "Simpson." It was not. His middle name was "Ulysses" and he admitted that the "S" in his name stood for nothing.
- **Date of Birth:** April 27, 1822, Point Pleasant, Ohio.
- **Religion:** Methodist. Grant was not religious and his son judged him to be agnostic. He attended church services occasionally as an adult, but he did it primarily to please his wife, Julia, who was genuinely religious.
- **College:** [U.S. Military Academy, West Point](#), New York. Grant graduated July 1, 1843 and his class rank was 21 out of 39. Though he later enjoyed visiting West Point, he was not happy there as a cadet. He described his four years there as "interminable."
- **Date of Marriage:** August 22, 1848, St. Louis, Missouri. Grant marries a Missouri slave-owner's daughter, Julia Boggs Dent. He finally finds happiness in a marriage that is an unusually rich and close relationship. He had been courting Julia for four years, though much of the wooing took place through the U.S. mails. His love letters to her survive, and they make engrossing reading.
- **Wife's name:** [Julia Boggs Dent](#), born January 26, 1826, St. Louis, Missouri. Julia is unlovely, but Grant never noticed her imperfections. She provides him an emotional haven from the frustrations of "real life." She is 22 when they marry and remains protective and adoring of her husband, whom she addressed with a large assortment of nicknames, including Dodo, Dode, Victor and Dudy. They are faithful to one another and don't engage in the modern propensity of "straying." This is the integral relationship in Grant's life.
- **Children:** Julia and Ulysses have [four children](#) and are indulgent, affectionate parents who give freely of material possessions. Grant is incapable of disciplining the two youngest children and allows them extreme, yet loving, latitude.

From <http://www.mscomm.com/~ulysses/page2.html>: May 5, 2005

Abraham Lincoln

The son of a Kentucky frontiersman, Lincoln had to struggle for a living and for learning. Five months before receiving his party's nomination for President, he sketched his life:

"I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families--second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks.... My father ... removed from Kentucky to ... Indiana, in my eighth year.... It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up.... Of course when I came of age I did not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write, and cipher ... but that was all."

Lincoln made extraordinary efforts to attain knowledge while working on a farm, splitting rails for fences, and keeping store at New Salem, Illinois. He was a captain in the Black Hawk War, spent eight years in the Illinois legislature, and rode the circuit of courts for many years. His law partner said of him, "His ambition was a little engine that knew no rest."

He married Mary Todd, and they had four boys, only one of whom lived to maturity. In 1858 Lincoln ran against Stephen A. Douglas for Senator. He lost the election, but in debating with Douglas he gained a national reputation that won him the Republican nomination for President in 1860.

As President, he built the Republican Party into a strong national organization. Further, he rallied most of the northern Democrats to the Union cause. On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy.

Taken from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/all16.html>