

American Values

By Gavi Book, Shmuel Dickel, and Gershon Engel

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) First Inaugural Address

It was towards the end of the Great Depression, and an extremely difficult time for America. In the aftermath of the gilded age and a time rife with corruption and organized crime, FDR gave his first inaugural address in 1933. FDR and Raymond Moley wrote this important speech to bring back the lost prosperity to America. FDR was trying to prepare the nation for his presidency, telling the nation that the government would have more power in order to fix the crisis that they were in.

FDR's Writing Style

FDR's approach to the Great Depression arguably had won him the election against Herbert Hoover. During FDR's campaign speeches, FDR usually spoke in an optimistic, lighter tone. He stressed raising the spirits and self confidence of Americans. He generally didn't elaborate too much as to what he was actually going to do when he won. This inaugural address was different. Here he was much more serious than usual, as if to set a tone for what he was saying. Additi the beginning of his speech is very dark, unlike his other speeches or even the end of this one.

Values

- **Happiness-** The address was showing the nation that their happiness doesn't come from their money, and rather their money is causing them issues
- **Perseverance-** The document was trying to highlight the idea of getting up when you fall down
- **Unity-** FDR's main goal was to unite the nation to ultimately reconstruct

Quotes

- “Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money; **it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort.**”
- “This great Nation **will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper.** So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that **the only thing we have to fear is fear itself**—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met **with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory**”
- “We face the arduous days that lie before us **in the warm courage of the national unity**”

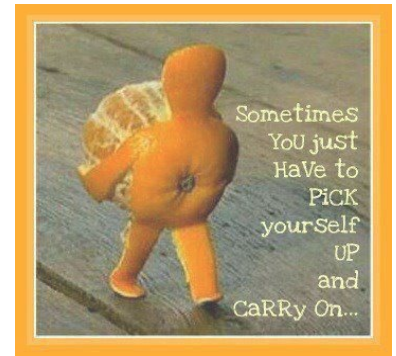
Happiness Quote#1

- In order to be happy in life one does not need to have billions of dollars. Money does not equate to happiness. One can become happy when one does a good deed-kind acts make people feel fulfilled and happy. When one finally accomplishes something that they have been working on for a while, they feel achievement, and they are truly happy, regardless if they are getting money out of it. In the words of FDR, happiness lies in the “joys of achievement, the thrill of creative effort”, if one does a kind act and does not receive money, they feel even more happiness and achievement, because they did this kind act without getting a reward.
- FDR is reinsuring the American people that they will be truly happy if they work together and not just try getting money for themselves.



Perseverance Quote#2

Roosevelt's famous quote of "fearing fear itself" teaches us something bigger than its literal meaning. Literally FDR translated the line to mean that the Americans freaking out about their situation, running to banks, and taking all of their money out was making this situation that they were fearing about much worse. This line can be taken in a different sense. That the nation should not fear, they will get through these terrible times. That even though they fell down (The Great Depression) they should take the values and lessons that FDR teaches and "get up" from our fall.



Unity Quote#3

- FDR was trying to unite the American nation. “We face the arduous days...” FDR was saying the nation needed to unite in order to get through these hard times (The Great Depression.) The nation was a disaster, without unity the nation stood no chance at survival. If the nation would not unite and come together as one, they would not survive.



“Come Together” by The Beatles

“One thing I can tell you is
You got to be free
Come together, right now
Over me”



“Come Together” and FDR’s Inaugural Address

The Beatles song “Come Together” reflects American unity and bringing people together. Despite the fact that they were English, they still had a massive impact on American culture. The song mentions different activities that bring Americans together. The song writes “One thing I can tell you is You got to be free Come together, right now Over me.” We can connect this to Roosevelt's Inaugural address. Franklin said that the American nation needs to be free of the horrible economic and cultural issues they were facing. Then Mr. Roosevelt uses a similar language of the song as to say that the American people need to unite as a nation and “over me” under his ruling.

Lesson Plan

- Answer following questions:
 - Where do you see the idea of unity in your life?
 - Have you ever seen or had these values come up in your life? Personally? As an American?

Final Thoughts

Both the Beatles song and FDR's Inaugural address focused on the idea of uniting people. The Beatles were on a more general sense while FDR was more physical and literal. FDR expands to bring the ideas of national perseverance and communal happiness.