

Alison: Ben, I don't really see the merit in this speech, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is short and seems meaningless. It's only 271 words!

Ben: Hey Al!

Alison: Hey Ben! What have you been up to?

Ben: I've been studying speeches for English, it's quite interesting!

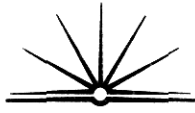
Alison: Oh my God! I found them so boring. I ~~didn't~~ liked Abraham Lincoln's speech though.

Ben: Why? ~~It's~~

Alison: It is so short, it seems easy to understand. Liberty, freedom etc.

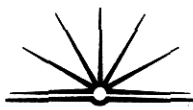
Ben: You like it just because it's short. It may be very short, but it carries a large and complex message. Just look at the beginning; "Fellow Countrymen," this implies a universality. He is talking to EVERYONE. Lincoln does portray the idea of liberty in his speech, but there is much more to it.

Alison: How so?



Ben Well, the speech was given after the battle of Gettysburg, to dedicate part of the battlefield as a cemetery to those who died. Lincoln uses a triple utterance to describe that it has been consecrated beyond human capabilities: "we cannot ~~come~~ dedicate, cannot consecrate, cannot hallow." He says it has already been consecrated by those who ~~men~~ "gave their lives so that a nation might live." This statement is a paradox, which emphasises the sacrifice made by the men. The speech also has a sort of resonating quality. This is displayed by the triple utterance given at the end of the speech, which echoes the one given before: ~~The~~ "The government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Alison I never really read into it that much. You really know a lot about Lincoln's speech. I think the references to the constitution communicate the theme of liberty quite well. Although the speech was written to dedicate a plot of land as



a cemetery, the underlying theme is still freedom and liberty.

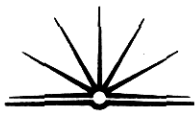
Ben Yes, true, but I think I know the speech a bit better than you.

Alison Ooooh! Fiesty! Don't make this personal! We're just discussing school work!

Ben I am not making it personal!

Alison Yes you are! Arguing isn't going to get us anywhere. What did you think of Emma Goldman's speech.

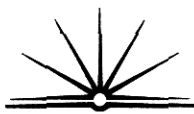
Ben I loved it! I really liked the humour and sarcasm she uses in the first few paragraphs. She is almost poetic when she uses the metaphor of a weak and flimsy net. My favourite line would have to be ~~be~~ "wielding not a sword, nor a ~~gun~~ ^{gun} nor a bomb, but merely their pens! Verily, it required much effort to catch such a big fish!" Even though her sarcastic humour didn't charm the jury, I believe that it continues to charm the world today, and so the underlying



messages are communicated better to a modern audience.

Alison: I think the speech goes a bit deeper than that.
Ben: How so?

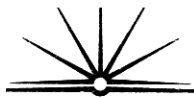
Alison: Goldman's ~~speech~~ speech ~~is~~ directly contrasts Lincoln's speech in style. Lincoln had no use ~~for~~ for an argument in his speech, but Goldman's speech is an address to the jury at her trial, in her defence, and therefore needs to argue a point to achieve a goal (i.e. proving Goldman and her colleague, Alexander Berkman, not guilty). Goldman's ~~own~~ speech is quasi-legal, and uses precedent to put forth its case. Goldman uses the examples of the Boston Tea Party ^{and} the French Revolution as examples of anarchy (as Goldman was an anarchist) she relates these to herself by ~~arguing that~~ emphasizing that these examples are of groups that America supports, although at the time they were anarchists. She also uses Jesus as precedence, challenging the Christian views of the



judge and jury. However, this is also daring, as she compares herself to Jesus. One of the most important rhetorical techniques in the speech is the way that Goldman turns around a commonly used phrase: "We are in the war to make democracy safe for the world" to include "but first we must make democracy safe for America." Her speech also plays on the idea of liberty and freedom, and that she was arrested for trying to protect liberty and freedom (as her no-conscription activities could be taken as protecting the rights and lives of America's people).

Ben That's all well and good, but I think it's the humour and ridicule at the beginning which paves the way for those ideas.

Alison Yes but these ideas are more important than the actual humour itself. Especially her humility at the end; ~~the end~~ "we are but the atoms in the incessant human struggle towards the light that shines in the darkness." I THINK I know the



speech a bit better than you!!

~~Speech~~