

Appreciating the Images

The Paintings

In early 1869, Congress provided funds for a new Lincoln portrait and requested artists to submit paintings. Thirteen paintings were submitted; the Healy and Cogswell portraits were the two finalists. Healy had painted his before Lincoln was assassinated. Cogswell worked from a sketch done at a private sitting in 1864. The winner would hang in the White House.

- Describe details in each painting, such as clothing, pose, objects, and facial expressions.
- Compare the two paintings. How are they alike? Different?
- What three adjectives would you use to describe each portrait?
- How does each make you feel about Lincoln?
- Which portrait do you like best? Why?
- Which portrait do you think won the competition? (Your teacher has the answer.)

The Sculptures

Vinnie Ream was an 18-year-old young woman when she won a competition to cast a life-size sculpture of Lincoln against 18 males. She was 24 when her marble statue was unveiled in 1871; it stands inside the US Capitol Rotunda. Former slaves donated all the money that paid for the Freedmen's Memorial. Its kneeling freedman was carved from photos of a real ex-slave. The bronze monument rests in Lincoln Park.

- Describe details in each sculpture, such as clothing, pose, objects, and facial expressions.
- Compare the two sculptures. How are they alike? Different?
- What message was the sculptor trying to convey in her/his work?
- If the statue could talk, what would the figures say to people today?
- Which statue do you like best? Why?