

Guidelines for Completing the *Paths to Freedom* Cast List

- Start by assigning one student to each line. The traditional cast list contains 20 speaking roles for this play but can be adapted for 17-27 speaking parts.
- Students who do not feel comfortable performing a speaking role can play a non-speaking part (see end of cast list) or be a crew member helping behind the scenes.
- With the 20 speaking roles, some students are assigned to “double characters,” meaning that they play more than one role. The assignments were determined using the following criteria:
 - The characters are not in the same scene (or scenes that are close together).
 - If you chose to use costumes, no costume change is required to play both characters.
- *If you have more students than parts*, feel free to split up the “double characters” (i.e., one student can play Fred Seward and another student can play Count Gurowski). This will add 7 additional speaking parts.
- *If you do not have enough students to complete the cast list*, you double up a few roles to get the speaking parts down to 17 and not have any overlap in scenes.
 - Frederick Douglass/Any additional character
 - Mary Todd Lincoln/Rebecca Pomroy
 - Tad Lincoln/any General or Admiral

CAST LIST

PATHS TO FREEDOM

Slavery, Emancipation, and the Power of the President



CAST LIST

Narrator:

1. Frederick Douglass _____

Main Character:

2. President Abraham Lincoln _____

Note: The student assigned to this role should be outgoing, and able to read well. Abraham Lincoln has more lines than any other character.

President's Family:

3. Mary Todd Lincoln, Wife _____

4. Tad Lincoln, Youngest son _____

Note: Tad was a real troublemaker. A lively student would play this role well!

Cabinet Members and other characters:

5. Edwin Stanton/ Henri Mercier _____

6. William Seward/Ward Lamon _____

7. Salmon P. Chase _____

8. Edward Bates/ Lord Richard Lyons _____

9. Montgomery Blair/ Charles Sumner _____

10. Caleb Smith/ James Bayard _____

11. Gideon Welles/ Edward Rosewater _____

12. Fred Seward/ Count Adam Gurowski _____

Note: Gurowski's character is very dramatic

13. Fanny Seward _____

Note: She was an enthusiastic young lady

14. Kate Chase _____

15. Anna Seward (Fred Seward's wife) _____

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Note: Daughter of Secretary Chase; she is intelligent, proud, and a tad snobby!

16. General Ambrose Burnside, Union Army _____

Note: This character should wear sideburns; the other kids may laugh about it. The student playing Burnside should be outgoing, and not easily embarrassed.

17. General Lorenzo Thomas, Union Army _____

18. Admiral Andrew Foote, Union Navy _____

19. Rebecca Pomroy _____
Former nurse to Tad Lincoln

20. Elizabeth Keckley _____
Mrs. Lincoln's friend and dressmaker. She was also formerly enslaved.

Non-Speaking Roles

These students can appear on-stage in the background of scenes but do not need to perform lines.

Union Soldiers:

Extra Gentlemen:

Extra Ladies:

