The Soul of America

By Jon Meacham

Answer the following:

**Introduction (pg. 9-)**

1. How did John Adams & Thomas Jefferson describe how they felt about the American experience? (pg. 9)
2. How did the abolitionist & minister Thomas Parker describe the “the American idea?” How did former slave Frederick Douglass express his feeling about America’s capacity for justice? (pg. 9)
3. Starting at the bottom of page 10 and continuing on page 11, explain how the author describes why it’s important to know the past. How did both the Federalist in 1790s and South Carolina extremist in the Age of Jackson threaten the Union? (pg. 11)

**Chapter 1 (pg. 23-47)**

1. What is the difference between *The First Charter of Virginia* (1606) and *A Model of Christian Charity* (1630)? How do each represent a contradiction? Pg. 23-24
2. How is Abraham Lincoln an example of “…*birth mattered less than it ever had before*…” when it came to the American dream of wealth & happiness. Pg. 24
3. Starting on page 24 and continuing through page 27, Meacham explains why the American presidency is important to the American experience. Give an example of why this is so. Also explain how the competing views of Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* and practical experience of the Revolutionary War and Confederation period shaped thoughts on government.
4. How did Alexander Hamilton curtail his enthusiasm over the role of the President in two of his *Federalist* essays? Pg. 27-28
5. What began to change in regard to political power by the time of Andrew Jackson’s presidency? Give some examples of how Jackson was “*the most contradictory of men*”. Pg. 29-31