

Abraham Lincoln Curriculum-Based Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Ms. Osterman's class with Educational Drama Specialist Mary Beth Bowen
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1 He was tall!
2 Skinny!
3 Honest!
4 He wore a stovepipe hat!
5 His face is on the penny!
6 On the five dollar bill!
7 He was the Great Emancipator!
8 WHO..... was he?
9 He was...
ALL ABRAHAM LINCOLN!
10 Our 16th president.
ALL {Sound Effect & Gesture - "Hail to the Chief"}
11 So what's so great about Lincoln?
12 What's great about him...
13 is that he took the first steps toward
ALL ENDING SLAVERY IN AMERICA.
14 But let's rewind to the beginning.
ALL {Gesture & Sound Effect}
15 The year..... is 1809.
16 *Little Abe Lincoln* is born
ALL WAAH! {Gesture}
17 in a log cabin
18 in Kentucky.
19 He grows up *poor*.
20 When he's nine years old...
21 his mother dies.
ALL {Gesture & Sound Effect}
22 Abraham's father remarries...
23 and young Abe is a little worried.
ALL WHAT IF SHE'S MEAN? {Gesture}
24 But Abraham's new step-mother
25 is very kind to him.
ALL {Gesture & Sound Effect}
26 At the time, most people think...
1 that ten-year-old Abe Lincoln
2 is not very smart.
3 But his step-mother
4 sees that he *is*.
5 She tells him....
Boys READ EVERY BOOK....
Girls YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON!

6 but there's hardly any time to read
7 because young Abe... has to
ALL WORK {Gesture}
8 on his father's farm.
9 And when Abe turns 16,
10 His father hires him out to work...
11 on *other people's* farms.
12 Abe is always busy...
A clearing land {Gesture}
B plowing fields {Gesture}
C planting crops {Gesture}
ALL PHEW! {Gesture}
13 But sometimes Abe...would lay down and
ALL READ A BOOK {Gesture}
14 The neighbors would say
ALL ABE, YOU'RE LAZY! {Gesture}
15 But *was*..... he lazy?
ALL NO! {Gesture}
16 He just had a
Boys HUNGER FOR LEARNING...
Girls THAT STAYED WITH HIM
ALL ALL HIS LIFE
17 When Lincoln grew up...
18 He worked lots of *different* jobs...
19 flat boat pilot
20 rail-splitter
21 soldier in the Illinois state militia
ALL A-TEN-TION! {Gesture}
22 And store clerk.
ALL CHA-CHING {Gesture}
23 One day,
24 when he was working in the store...
25 he realized he has over-charged
a lady...
26 by *three* cents.
ALL OH NO! {Gesture}
1 He walked over three miles
ALL {Gesture}
2 To pay her back.
ALL HERE'S YOUR CHANGE M'AM!
{Gesture}
3 That's how he got his nickname...

ALL HONEST ABE! {Gesture}
 4 Well, he may have been honest...
 5 But he sure wasn't pretty!
 6 Lincoln had a long, bony face
 7 a big nose
 8 and his arms and legs ...
 9 were way too long for his body.
 10 His political opponents called him
ALL GORILLA! {Gesture}
 11 But Lincoln never got angry.
 12 When a political rival *insulted* him
 by saying..
 13 You.....are two-faced! {Gesture}
 14 Lincoln replied.
 Boys IF I WERE TWO-FACED,
 Girls WOULD I BE WEARING THIS ONE?
 15 From humble beginnings...
 16 Abraham Lincoln...
ALL GOES A LONG WAY. {Gesture}
 17 He is elected...
 18 to the Illinois State Legislature...
 19 to the US Congress...
 20 and in 1860...
 21 he is elected...
ALL PRESIDENT!
 22 So..... what was Lincoln's
 23 most important decision?
ALL HMMMMM. {Gesture}
 24 Well..... it might have been...
 25 when he signed...
**ALL THE EMANCIPATION
 PROCLAMATION.**
 26 What did *it* do?
 5 It freed *all* the slaves!
ALL {"Wrong answer" S.E. & Gesture}
 5 It *didn't* free all the slaves?
ALL NOPE. {Gesture}
 1 The Emancipation Proclamation
 2 only freed the slaves
ALL IN THE CONFEDERATE STATES.
 3 Wait a minute!
 4 President Lincoln had no *control*...
 over the Confederate states...
 5 So how could he free *their* slaves?
 6 He didn't.

7 The southern slave owners *ignored*
 Lincoln's Proclamation.
 8 So at first,
 9 the Emancipation Proclamation...
**ALL DIDN'T FREE ANY SLAVES.
 {Gesture}**
 10 But later on...
 11 when slaves heard about it...
ALL WE'RE FREE! {Gesture}
 12 *some* slaves liberated *themselves*...
 13 by running away to the North.
 14 So...did the Emancipation Proclamation
 15 help the North
 16 *win* the war?
ALL YES!
 17 The Emancipation Proclamation
 18 gave the war.... a more
ALL NOBLE PURPOSE. {Gesture}
 19 That made the North
ALL FIGHT HARDER! {Gesture}
 20 When the Civil War started,
 21 Lincoln said the war's "*purpose*"
 was to....
ALL PRESERVE THE UNION...
 22 But the Emancipation Proclamation
 23 *expanded* the war's purpose....
 24 and made it a fight...
ALL TO ABOLISH SLAVERY! {Gesture}
 25 So when did America finally *end*
 slavery?
 26 That happened eight months after
 The Civil War ended...when
 Boys THE 13TH AMENDMENT...
 Girls OUTLAWED SLAVERY FOREVER.
 1 But President Lincoln didn't get to
 celebrate.
 2 Five days after the War ended...
ALL LINCOLN WAS ASSASSINATED.
 3 But his decision to sign
 4 the Emancipation Proclamation
 5 brought us closer to the goal of
ALL EQUALITY FOR ALL.
 6 Happy Birthday...
ALL MR. LINCOLN! {Gesture}