

A LINCOLN READING LIST & PRIMARY SOURCES

With the Bicentennial of Lincoln's birth on February 12 2009, this is the perfect time to catch up on reading about his life, legacy, and times.

This list provides lots of good choices. There is something here for everyone, but it is not an all inclusive list. You will want to preview every title for appropriateness of content, interest, and reading level before selecting it for young or teen readers.

Reading List by Grade Spans

Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2

Nonfiction and Biography

Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books - Kay Winters, Nancy Carpenter (illus.)
Henry's Freedom Box - Ellen Levine, Kadir Nelson (illus.)
Stand Tall, Abe Lincoln - Judith St. George
Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving – Laurie Halse Anderson,
Matt Faulkner

Historical Fiction and Fiction

A. Lincoln and Me – Louise W. Bordon, Ted Lewin (illus.)
Abe Lincoln and the Muddy Pig – Stephen Krensky, Cresham Griffith
Abe Lincoln's Hat – Martha Brenner, Donald Cook (illus.)
Honest Abe - Edith Kunhardt
Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers - Karen B. Winnick
Under the Quilt of Night - Deborah Hopkinson

Grades 3, 4, and 5

Nonfiction and Biography

Abraham Lincoln - Amy Cohn, Suzy Schmidt, David Johnson
Abraham Lincoln for Kids: His Life and Times with 21 Activities - Janis Herbert
Abe Lincoln Goes to Washington, 1837-1863 - Cheryl Harness
Abe Lincoln Remembers - Ann Turner, Wendell Minor
The Lincoln Memorial – Hal Marcovitz
Pink and Say - Patricia Polacco
When Abraham Talked to the Trees - Elizabeth Van Steenwyk
Young Abe Lincoln – Cheryl Harness

Historical Fiction and Fiction

After the Rain: Virginia's Diary, Book Two, Washington D.C., 1864 –
Mary Pope Osborne
Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule - Harriette Gillem Robinet
Grace's Letter to Lincoln - Peter and Connie Roop
Lincoln's Legacy: Blast to the Past - Stacia Deutsch, Rhody Cohon
Mr. Lincoln's Drummer – G. Clifton Wisler
Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt - Deborah Hopkinson

Grades 6, 7, and 8

Nonfiction and Biography

Abraham Lincoln: From Pioneer to President - Ellen Blue Phillips
Abraham Lincoln the Writer: A Treasury of His Greatest Speeches and Letters -
Harold Holzer
Don't Know Much About Abraham Lincoln - Kenneth C. Davis
Don't Know Much About the Civil War - Kenneth C. Davis
Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth & John Wilkes Booth-
James Cross Giblin
Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad - Ann Petry
Lincoln: A Photobiography - Russell Freeman
*Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: The Untold Story of How Abraham Lincoln
Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War* - Tom Wheeler
No Better Hope: What the Lincoln Memorial Means to America - Brent K. Ashabranner

Historical Fiction and Fiction

Across Five Aprils - Irene Hunt
Bull Run - Paul Fleischman
I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad -
Karolyn Smardz Frost
The Journal of Darien Dexter Duff, An Emancipated Slave - K. J. McWilliams
Little Women - Louisa May Alcott
Letters from Vinnie - Maureen Stack Sappey

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 and Adult

Sites and Travels

The Lincoln Highway: Coast to Coast from Times Square to the Golden Gate -
Michael Wallis
Greetings From the Lincoln Highway: America's First Coast-to-Coast Road -
Brian Butko
The Lincoln Highway: Main Street Across America - Drake Hokanson
All the Way to Lincoln Way: A Coast to Coast Bicycle Odyssey - Bill RoeAmazon
The Lincoln Memorial - Hal Marcovitz
No Better Hope: What the Lincoln Memorial Means to America - Brent K. Ashabranner
Our American Cousin: The Play That Changed History - Tom Taylor,
Welford Dunaway Taylor
Civil War Sites: The Official Guide to Battlefields, Monuments, and More -
Civil War Preservation Trust

General

100 Essential Lincoln Books – Michael Burkheimer
Abraham Lincoln: A Biography – Lord Charnwell
The Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia – Mark E. Neely
Abraham Lincoln in Print and Photograph: A Picture History from the Lilly Library –
Cecil K. Byrd
Abraham Lincoln: Portrayed in the Collections of the Indiana Historical Society –
Harold Holzer, Emily Castle, Barbara Quigley
Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President – Allen C. Guelzo
Herndon's Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life – William Henry Herndon
The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln – Michael Burlingame

Lincoln – David Herbert Donald
Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power – Richard Carwardine
Lincoln and Chief Justice Taney: Slavery, Secession, and the President's War Powers – James F. Simon
Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream – Gabor C. Boritt
The Lincoln Enigma: The Changing Faces of an American Icon – Gabor C. Boritt
The Lincoln Family Album - Mark E. Neely Jr., Harold Holzer
Lincoln Revisited: New Insights from the Lincoln Forum – John Y. Simon, Harold Holzer, and Dan Vogel
Lincoln the Lawyer – Brian Dirck
Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America – Allen C. Guelzo
Lincoln's Melancholy: How Depression Challenged a President and Fueled His Greatness – Joshua Wolf Shenk
Lincoln's Sanctuary: Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home – Matthew Pinsker
Lincoln's Virtues: An Ethical Biography – William Lee Miller
The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln (American Presidency Series) – Phillip Shaw Palludin
With Charity for All: Lincoln and the Restoration of the Union – William C. Harris
With Malice Toward None: A Life of Abraham Lincoln – Stephen B. Oates

Nonfiction and Biography

Before the White House

Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years – Carl Sandburg
Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln – Douglas L. Wilson
The Lincoln Memorial Way Through Indiana: Historic Lincoln Route – Arthur F. Hall
Lincoln's Rise to the Presidency – William C. Harris
Lincoln's Youth: Indiana Years Seven to Twenty-One, 1816-1830 – Louis Austin Warren
There I Grew Up: Remembering Abraham Lincoln's Youth - William E. Bartelt

The Master of Words

Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings 1832-1858 – Don E. Fehrenbacher
Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings: Volume 2 1859-1865 – Don E. Fehrenbacher
The Complete Lincoln Douglas Debates of 1858 – Paul M. Angle (ed.)
Conversations with Lincoln - Charles M. Segal, David Donald
The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words – Ronald C. White, Jr.
The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech Nobody Knows – Gabor Boritt
The Life and Writings of Abraham Lincoln – Philip Van Doren Stern (ed.)
Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Abraham Lincoln President – Harold Holzer
Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America – Garry Wills
The Lincoln Reader – Paul M. Angle
Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural – Ronald C. White, Jr.
Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words - Douglas L. Wilson
Recollected Words of Abraham Lincoln – Don & Virginia Fehrenbacher (eds.)
The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln: A Book of Quotations – Bebe Blaisdell (ed.)
The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln: As Reflected in His Letters and Speeches – H. Jack Lang

Mary Todd Lincoln

Loving Mr. Lincoln: The Personal Diaries of Mary Todd Lincoln – M. Kay DuPont
Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography – Jean H. Baker
Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Keckly: The Remarkable Story of the Friendship Between a First Lady and a Former Slave – Jennifer Fleischner
Behind the Scenes: or, Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House – Elizabeth Keckly

The Civil War

Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America: A Biography – William E. Geinapp
Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years – Carl Sandburg
April 1865: The Month That Saved America - Jay Winik
Battle Cry of Freedom - James M. McPherson
The Civil War: An Illustrated History – Geoffrey C. Ward, Ric Burns, and Ken Burns
Civil War Railroads: A Pictorial Story of the War Between the States, 1861-1865 – George B. Abdill
Crisis of the House Divided: An Interpretation of the Issues in the Lincoln-Douglas Debates – Harry V. Jaffa
General Ulysses S. Grant: The Soldier and the Man - Edward Longacre
Grant Takes Command - Bruce Catton
Hope and Glory: Essays on the Legacy of the 4th Massachusetts Regiment – Martin Henry Blatt, Thomas J. Brown, Donald Yacovone (Eds.)
[Basis for the movie *Glory*]
Lincoln and His Generals – T. Harry Williams
Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: The Untold Story of How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War – Tom Wheeler
Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant - Ulysses S. Grant
Ulysses S. Grant (The American Presidents series) - Josiah Bunting and Arthur M. Schlesinger

Slavery

Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War – Michael P. Johnson
Behind the Scenes: or, Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House – Elizabeth Keckly
Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman (Portrait of an American Hero) - Kate Clifford Larson
Father Abraham: Lincoln's Relentless Struggle to End Slavery – Richard Striner
Fleeing for Freedom: Stories of the Underground Railroad as Told by Levi Coffin (Indiana businessman) and *William Still* (free African American) - George Hendrick
I Came as a Stranger: The Underground Railroad - Bryan Prince
Life and Times of Frederick Douglass - Frederick Douglass

Lincoln Men

Inside Lincoln's White House: The Complete Civil War Diary of John Hay – Michael Burlingame & John R. Turner Ettliger (eds.)
Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln – Doris Kearns Goodwin
We Are Lincoln Men: Abraham Lincoln and His Friends – David Herbert Donald

The Adversaries

Jefferson Davis, American - William J. Cooper
Jefferson Davis: The Man and His Hour - William C. Davis
Lee Considered: General Robert E. Lee and Civil War History - Alan T. Nolan
The Lees of Virginia - Paul C. Nage
Pursuit: The Chase, Capture, Persecution, and Surprising Release of Confederate President Jefferson Davis - Clint Johnson
Reading the Man: Portrait of Robert E. Lee through His Private letters - Elizabeth Brown Pryor
Robert E. Lee: Biography - Emory M. Thomas

The Assassination

The Assassination of Lincoln: History and Myth - Lloyd Lewis, Mark Neely
The Day Lincoln Was Shot – Jim Bishop
John Wilkes Booth: A Sister's Memoir - Asia Booth Clarke
The Lincoln Funeral Train - Scott D. Trostel
Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer - James L. Swanson
Stealing Lincoln's Body – Thomas J. Craughwell

The Lincoln Legacy

The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties – Mark E. Neely
In Lincoln's Footsteps: A Historical Guide to the Lincoln Sites in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky – Don Davenport
Judging Lincoln – Frank J. Williams
The Lincoln Enigma – Gabor Borritt
Lincoln in American Memory – Merrill D. Peterson
Lincoln Reconsidered: Essays on the Civil War Era – David Herbert Donald
Lincoln Seen and Heard – Harold Holzer

Fiction and Poetry

Historical Fiction

The Civil War: A Narrative (3 volume set) - Shelby Foote
Cold Mountain: A Novel – Charles Frazier
The Emancipator's Wife - Barbara Hambly
Fire by Night - Lynn Austin
The Friendly Persuasion – Jessamyn West
The Killer Angels: A Novel of the Civil War – Michael Shaara
The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union - Bell Irvin Wiley
The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy - Bell Irvin Wiley
March - Geraldine Brooks
The Red Badge of Courage - Stephen Crane
Rifles for Watie – Harold Keith
Roughing It - Mark Twain
Shiloh: A Novel – Shelby Foote

Poetry

“Mortality” – William Knox [Lincoln's favorite poem]
“Abraham Lincoln: Born on February 12, 1809” – Walt Whitman
“O Captain! My Captain!” – Walt Whitman

"This Dust Was Once a Man" – Walt Whitman
"Hush'd Be the Camps To-day" – Walt Whitman
"When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" – Walt Whitman
"To Abraham Lincoln" – John J. Loud
"Poem (Through the Dim Pageant of the Years)" – Julia Ward How"
"Abraham Lincoln" – Berton Bellis
"Death of President Lincoln!" – James D. Gay
"Abraham Walks at Midnight" – Vachel Lindsay
"Abraham Lincoln" – William Cullen Bryant
"Abraham Lincoln, from the Ode Recited at the Harvard Commemoration" –
James Russell Lowell
"Lincoln, the Man of the People" – Edwin Markham
"Anne Rutledge" – Edgar Lee Masters
"Hannah Armstrong" – Edgar Lee Masters
"The Master" – Edwin Arlington Robinson
"A Farmer Remembers Lincoln" – Witter Bynner
"Lincoln" – John Gould Fletcher
"Lincoln" – Ellen Wheeler Cox
"Lincoln" – Nancy Byrd Turner
"The People, Yes" – Carl Sandburg

Primary Sources

You can locate many primary sources for Abraham Lincoln, his life and times by using the key words "Abraham Lincoln primary sources" in a search engine. Some useful sites are listed below in alphabetical order.

Abraham Lincoln Institute

This institute promotes the development and dissemination of printed materials, broadcast products, conferences and Internet resources on Abraham Lincoln. It promotes the transcription of primary sources for both physical and virtual display.
<http://abrahamlincoln.org>

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum - Springfield, Illinois

The online store contains replicas of the Museum's Lincoln artifact collection.
www.alplm.org

Chicago Historical Society

This site has displays and explanations of the forensic evidence of Lincoln's assassination.
www.chicagohistory.org

Library of Congress

Mr. Lincoln's Virtual Library, part of *American Memory* (the National Digital Library), has information on Abraham Lincoln and includes the complete Abraham Lincoln papers at the Library of Congress, including a draft of the Emancipations Proclamation, his second Inaugural Address, and approximately 20,000 others. The online presentation comprises 61,000 images and 10,000 transcriptions.
<http://www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/>

Smithsonian Institution

The online *Price of Freedom: Exhibition* examines how wars have shaped the nation's history. The site contains artifacts, maps, photographs, paintings and transcripts relative to the Civil War (1861-1865).

<http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/>

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

This electronic text archive contains primary source slavery narratives, first-person narratives of the South, and a digitized library of literature from the South.

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/>