



**Bicentennial Book: Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America (NF)  
By William E. Gienapp**

**About the Book**

William E. Gienapp provides a concise overview of Abraham Lincoln's life from farm boy to politician, complete with intriguing, little known facts on our 16<sup>th</sup> president and the Civil War.

**About the Author:** William E. Gienapp was an award-winning author who wrote several books pertaining to 19<sup>th</sup> century American history, including a best selling college textbook. Considered to be a leading historian on the Civil War, Gienapp is remembered for being a passionate Harvard professor, an avid baseball fan and a father to two boys. He passed away from cancer in 2003 at the age of fifty-nine.

**Before Reading:** (Can be correlated with the Academic and Core Reading Standards 1, 2, and 3.)

*(Readers ask questions before reading to build background knowledge and improve overall text comprehension.)*

- What do you already know about \_\_\_\_\_ (Abraham Lincoln)?
- What questions would you like answered at some point in this book?
- Think about the genre of the text (nonfiction). Predict certain informational features that might be within the book.

**During Reading:** (Can be correlated with the Academic and Core Reading Standards 1, 2, and 3.)

*(Readers stop often throughout a story to analyze what they've read in order to check for understanding.)*

- If you could trade places with anyone at this point in the text, who would it be and why?
- Complete: This scene reminds me of a similar scene in \_\_\_\_\_ (name of another text) because ...
- What emotions do you feel about what you've just read? Describe what is occurring to make you feel that way.
- Discuss the personality characteristics (i.e., feelings, interests, behaviors) of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of an individual).
- Compare a situation that \_\_\_\_\_ (name of an individual) faced that is similar to one you've experienced.

**After Reading:** (Can be correlated with the Academic and Core Reading Standards 1, 2, and 3.)

*(Readers look back at what they've read, revisit predictions and think about the overall message of the text.)*

- Discuss several problems that \_\_\_\_\_ (name of an individual) faced. Which one was the most life changing?
- Select a quote from the text that made you stop and think. Explain your reflections.
- Analyze the relationship between two individuals in the text. Classify the various stages they went through.
- What was the author's purpose in writing this book?

**Write About Lincoln** (Can be correlated with the Academic and Core Writing Standards 4, 5, and 6.)

- **Strike Up the Band!** Pretend you have been given the freedom to create a soundtrack for this text. Write an explanation for each song you would include and clearly prove how each one connects to the text.
- **Who's Who?** Write an autobiography for one of the individuals in the text.