



Bicentennial Book: *Abe Lincoln's Hat* (F) by Martha Brenner

About the Book

Abraham Lincoln's stovepipe hat has long been associated with the 16th president. Martha Brenner shows us how the hat was used for more reasons than to simply cover his head. Readers of all ages will delight in learning about Lincoln's clever ways as a trial lawyer and seeing his jovial personality come to light.

About the Author: Martha Brenner is the author of *Abe Lincoln's Hat* and *Fireworks Tonight!*, which was selected by School Library Journal as one of the 50 Best Books of the Year. She lives with her family in North Carolina.

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 interesting facts do you already know about _____ (Abraham Lincoln)?
- Based on the title and cover illustration, what predictions can you make about what might happen in the story?
- From looking at the pictures, what can you learn about the characters?
- What questions would you like to ask about what might happen in this story?

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.)

- Describe the setting's time and place.
- If I were _____ (name of character) at this point, I would ...
- Explain how you have been surprised by what has happened in the story thus far.
- Discuss what pictures appeared in your head as you listened to the story and how the author helped to create those images.

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.)

- After reading, I wonder ...
- Describe the similarities and differences between the main character and you.
- What was the author's message? What lessons can be learned from the story?
- Summarize the most important events from the story in the order that they occurred.

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

- **Mailbag!** Create a postcard with your favorite scene from the story illustrated on one side. On the address side, write a short note recommending the book to somebody that you think will enjoy learning all about Lincoln. Be sure to use good word choice to get them excited about reading!
- **Save the Last Word for the Illustrator!** Design a new book jacket for *Abe Lincoln's Hat*, complete with a unique cover design, a detailed summary of the story's main events on the inside flap and interesting highlights on the back cover. Make readers want to pick up the book and begin turning those pages!