



Bicentennial Book: *Lincoln: A Photobiography* (NF) by Russell Freedman

About the Book

Russell Freedman archives the life and career of Abraham Lincoln through the use of over 80 prints and photographs, all clearly captioned to showcase the legacy of our 16th president.

About the Author: Russell Freedman is the author of more than thirty-five nonfiction books, many of which have received literary honors. In 1988, *Lincoln: A Photobiography* was awarded the Newbery Medal and a citation as School Library Journal Best Book of the Year. Mr. Freedman grew up in California and currently resides in New York.

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 (nonfiction) of this text. Predict certain informational features that might be found throughout the book.
- From looking at the pictures, what can you learn about the setting's time and place?

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.)

- What just happened in the book and what do you think will happen next?
- What is the most interesting new knowledge you've gained?
- How would you summarize the theme of the text by using only one word? (i.e., bravery, loyalty, friendship)
- What advice would you give to _____ (name of an individual) at this point in the text?

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.)

- Make a connection from the text to your life. What does the information mean to your life?
- How would you explain the plot of this book to somebody interested in reading it?
- Describe a problem that _____ (name of an individual) faced and how you would have solved it differently.
- What was the author's message? What lessons can be learned from the story?

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

- **3-2-1, Action!** Pretend this text is going to be made into a movie that you get to direct! Pick one scene from the book and write a script to bring to life the events.
- **Dear Diary!** Write a journal entry for one particular day as if you were a certain individual from the text. The more accurate you can be with historical facts and details, the more readers will feel like they're back in time!