



A Lesson on Honest Abe by Haley Kennedy

Grade Level: Grade 8

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, social studies, A lesson on Honest Abe

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to analyze and evaluate the text to help students better understand how Abraham Lincoln became "Honest Abe." The lesson will consist of vocabulary and short response questions to engage students in higher order thinking. By the end of the lesson, students will be able to identify and understand multiple character traits and how each trait relates to something specific.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.1: Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.1: Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.6: Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1b: Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

=====

Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Honest Abe

by

Content: This history tells about what happened while Abe Lincoln had a job working in a store in a small town. Every day people came and bought things they needed there. It was a frontier community. People did not have any extra money to spare. This story tells you about his character. As you read, think about the traits he shows by what he does.

Abe Lincoln could not endure the thought of cheating any one, even though it had been done unintentionally. He took great care of the money at the store. But some days there were mistakes. He always made sure to correct them.

One day a woman bought goods in Offutt's store amounting to something over two dollars. She paid Abe the money and went away satisfied. That night, on going over the sales of the day, Abe found that he had charged the woman six and one - fourth cents too much. After closing the store, though it was late, he could not go home to supper or to bed till he had restored that sixpence to its proper owner. She lived more than two miles away, but that did not matter to Abe Lincoln. He walked all the way there - and back.

Another evening, as he was closing the store, a woman came in for a half-pound of tea. He weighed it out for her and took the pay. But early next morning, when he came to open up, he found the four - ounce weight instead of the eight - ounce on the scales, and inferred that he had given that woman only half as much tea as he had taken the money for. Of course, the woman would never know the difference, and it meant walking several miles and back, but the honest clerk weighed out another quarter pound of tea, locked the store and took that long walk before breakfast.

J. G. Holland wrote, in his Life of Abraham Lincoln, of the young man's progress during his first year in New Salem:

The year that Lincoln was in Denton Offutt's store was one of great advance. He had made new and valuable acquaintances, read many books, won multitudes of friends, and become ready for a step further in advance. Those who could appreciate brains respected him, and those whose ideas of a man related to his muscles were devoted to him. It was while he was performing the work of the store that he acquired the nickname, 'Honest Abe' - a characterization that he never dishonored, that he never outgrew.

He was everybody's friend, the best - natured, the most sensible, the best - informed, the most modest and unassuming, the kindest, gentlest, roughest, strongest, best fellow in all New Salem and the region round about.

=====

Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Unintentionally **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says "Abe Lincoln could not endure the thought of cheating anyone, even though it had been done unintentionally." What does the word "unintentionally" mean?

- A: done on purpose
- B: not done on purpose
- C: done in anger
- D: done happily

Question: Select one of the following sentences that uses the word "unintentionally" correctly?

- A: The cashier unintentionally gave the wrong change back.
 - B: I unintentionally closed the door on purpose.
 - C: The unintentional man put his black suit on for work.
 - D: She unintentionally ate a sandwich.
-

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Amounting to **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says "One day a woman bought goods in Offutt's store amounting to something over two dollars." What does the phrase "amounting to" refer to in this sentence?

- A: small
- B: cheating
- C: large
- D: totaling

Question: Which sentence uses the phrase "amounting to" correctly?

- A: As the cashier was scanning the items, I noticed the total began amounting to more than I expected.
 - B: The cake was amounting to the ice cream.
 - C: I was amounting to the thought of dinner.
 - D: The man began amounting to himself.
-

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Sixpence **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author of our story says "After closing the store, though it was late, he could not go home to supper or to bed till he had restored that sixpence to its proper owner." Sixpence is a coin. What word below is similar to sixpence?

- A: ring
- B: purse
- C: money
- D: paper

Question: Which sentence uses the term "sixpence" correctly?

- A: I used my sixpence to formulate the correct answer.
 - B: I paid for my meal using my last sixpence.
 - C: The new show
 - D: The woman used her sixpence as a table cloth.
-

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Frontier community **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "This history tells about what happened while Abe Lincoln had a job working in a store in a small town. Every day people came and bought things they needed there. It was a frontier community." Which of the following is the correct definition of "frontier community."

- A: rural town
- B: busy city
- C: modern community
- D: futuristic house

Question: Which of the following sentences uses the phrase "frontier community" correctly?

- A: The frontier community was a busy store in the city.
 - B: The man purchased his own frontier community to travel back and forth to work.
 - C: The frontier community was a quiet place in the Midwest to raise a family.
 - D: The musical "frontier community" was a sight to see.
-

=====

Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Honest Abe?

It is mentioned throughout the story that Abe Lincoln is an honest man. Hence the name Honest Abe. Do you believe Abe Lincoln is honest? Yes or no. Cite textual evidence to support your answer.?

2 - J.G Holland on Abe Lincoln

Why does J.G Holland the author of Life of Abraham Lincoln say the year Abe Lincoln was in the Denton Offutt's store was one of the best? Cite text evidence to help support your answer.?

3 - Author's Purpose

What do you think the author's purpose was for writing this story? Provide text evidence from the story to support your answer.

=====

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write a 2-3 paragraph?essay explaining Abraham Lincoln's character traits and how he exemplified?them through his actions. Provide specific details to support your answer.?

=====