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"Honest Abe" Story Lesson on Abraham Lincoln by Adam Maxwell

Grade Level: Grade 8

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Abraham Lincoln, Abe Lincoln, Reading, Writing, Vocabulary, Honesty, Application, Discussion.

Lesson Description: Students will read, answer vocabulary questions, provide short answer discussion posts amongst the class, and write a short essay on how they can earn the title of "Honest".

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

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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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1: Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.1d: Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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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.

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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: Valuable **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of this short story states that Lincoln "had made new and valuable acquaintances". In what context is "valuable" used in this statement?

A: to describe that these acquaintance's are expensive.

B: to describe that these acquaintance's are priceless items.

C: to describe that these acquaintance's are important.

D: to describe that these acquaintance's are treasures.

Question: Which sentence uses "valuable" the same way the author uses it?

A: I lost a valuable of mine on vacation.

B: My education is very valuable.

C: That artifact is a rare valuable.

D: This is a valuable car.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Frontier **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author states that Abe Lincoln had a job in a small "frontier community". How does the word "frontier" describe his community in this sentence?

A: an industrial city.

B: a lodge.

C: a factory district.

D: a settlement border town.

Question: Which sentence below uses "frontier" correctly?

A: The frontier town was close to the wilderness.

B: I would rather be placed in the frontier than the bottom-tier of the competition.

C: The frontier to that car is missing.

D: The frontier worker did not let me book a room at the hotel.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Amounting **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says "a woman bought goods in Offutt's store amounting to something". What does the word "amounting" mean in this sentence?

A: to develop into something.

B: to add up to.

C: to describe imbalance.

D: to become something.

Question: What sentence uses the word "amounting" properly?

A: I took an amounting class at my school.

B: I needed help amounting the TV to the wall.

C: The cost of the groceries after my coupons was amounting to nothing.

D: Amounting helps you keep track of money.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Community **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "It was a frontier community.". How is the word "community" used in this sentence?

A: a specific place with local inhabitants.

B: a sense of sharing attributes.

C: feeling a sense of fellowship with others.

D: an object everyone shares.

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "community" as used in the story?

A: The community was for everyone to share.

B: There is a community between the two authors.

C: A community of school is learning.

D: The rural community kept to itself.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Afterwards, for each posted question, respond to two other peer's posts and state if you agree/disagree and why.?Students are responsible for posting one initial and and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why is it important for Abe Lincoln to correct his mistakes?

Why is it important that Abe Lincoln would always make sure to correct his mistakes, even though he did not need to?

2 - Did honesty pay off?

Did the honesty of Abraham Lincoln help him in the long run? (What did he get out?of his job at ?Denton Offutt's store?)

3 - How did "Honest Abe" come to be?

How did Abe Lincoln get the nickname of Honest Abe? What does the author imply about Abe Lincoln's character?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Title this writing as Honest _(your name here)_.? You are to write 5 paragraphs (500?words minimum) on 3 actions/attributes?that can earn you the title of Honest. State why each action/attribute is important. Make sure to include an Introduction and Conclusion and provide 3 specific examples for each body paragraph.

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