

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN COMES HOME

GRADES 1-4

Written by Robert Burleigh  
Paintings by Wendell Minor

Published by Henry Holt and Company

## ***Story Summary***

When Abraham Lincoln was shot in Washington, D.C., in 1865, the country was swept by shock. Upon his death came a huge outpouring of grief and sympathy for the courageous president who had guided the nation through the civil war. Over the course of thirteen somber days, people paid homage as Lincoln's funeral train made its way from Washington, D.C., to Springfield, Illinois. This book captures the feelings and experiences of a young boy and his father as they make the journey to see Lincoln's funeral train. The beautiful and realistic paintings help capture this experience.

## ***Objectives***

1. To develop research skills related to a specific topic.
2. To develop map skills.
3. To develop written language skills.

## ***Before viewing the video***

Tell the children that in this video they will meet the author, Robert Burleigh. He will tell you all about his book, *Abraham Lincoln Comes Home*. Ask the children if they know who Abraham Lincoln was and review basic facts about him with the class. Explain what the funeral train was and tell the children that they will see a video that describes what it was like for a young boy and his father to travel to see this train and pay their respects to their President. Tell them that they will also have an opportunity to learn more about this President.

### **Questions to ask after viewing the video**

1. How do we know by viewing this video that this took place a long time ago?
2. What were some of the things that made Luke's ride difficult?
3. Why was this train different from other trains?
4. Describe what the front of this train looked like.
5. How do you know it was nighttime when the funeral train was expected?
6. The train had been traveling for several days. What were some of the ways in which the people greeted the passing train?
7. Describe the feelings that Luke and his father had as the funeral train passed them.
8. The funeral train took Abraham Lincoln home. Where did the journey start and where did it end? Why did Abraham Lincoln's wife want him to be buried in Springfield, Illinois?

### **Activities**

1. The author recommends reading the following books for further information about Lincoln and the funeral train:  
*The Lincoln Funeral Train* by Scott D. Trostel (Camtech Publishing, 2002); *The Lincoln Train is Coming* by Wayne and Mary Cay Wesolowski (published independently, 1995.)
2. Distribute maps of the United States and have the class trace the route of the Lincoln funeral train as it appears in the book. Review the major cities and states along the route.
3. Have a "Let's Learn About Lincoln" classroom project. Assign different topics related to Lincoln, i.e., his childhood, his speeches, his assassination, and his wife and family. Utilize the school library for resources and have each child prepare a brief presentation on the chosen topic.
4. Develop a "Let's Learn About Lincoln" visual display in the classroom with copies of photographs, original illustrations and the written presentations prepared by the class.