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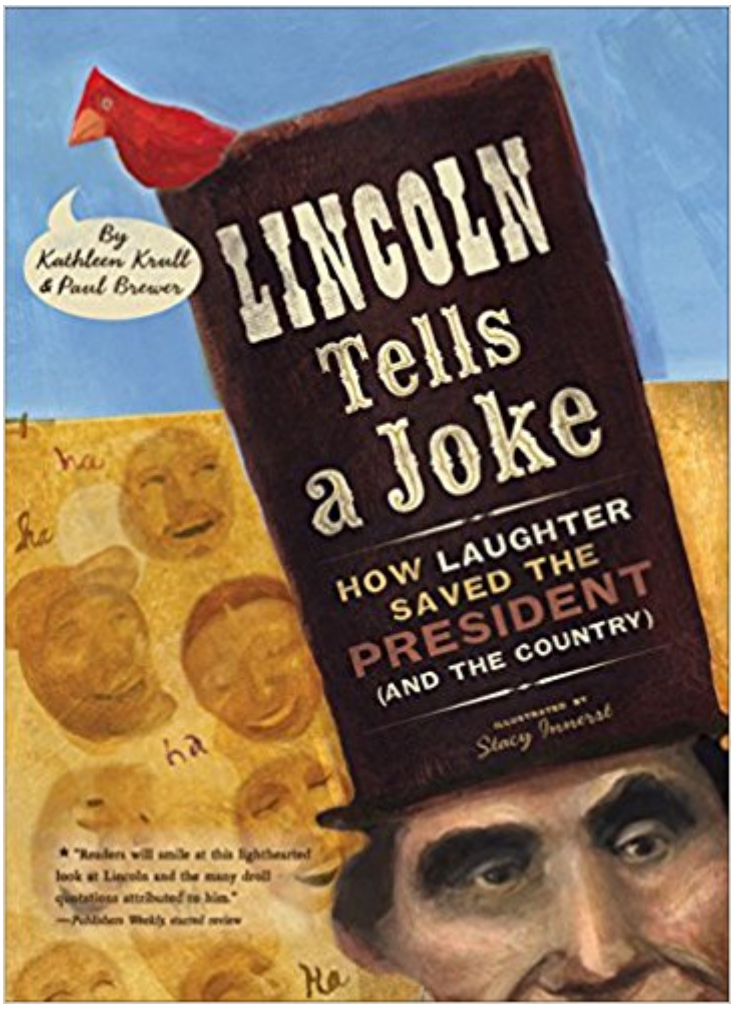
Lincoln Tells A Joke: How Laughter Saved The President (and The Country)



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Synopsis

Poor Abraham Lincoln! His life was hardly fun at all. A country torn in two by war, citizens who didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t like him as president, a homely appearanceÃ¢â ¬â •what could there possibly be to laugh about? And yet he did laugh. Lincoln wasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t just one of our greatest presidents. He was a comic storyteller and a person who could lighten a grim situation with a clever quip.
Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â This unusual biography of Lincoln highlights his life and presidency, focusing on what made his sense of humor so distinctiveÃ¢â ¬â •and so necessary to surviving his tough life and times.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years
Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 1Ã¢â ¬â œ4Ã¢â ¬â •The legends that endure about Lincoln are many: his log-cabin childhood, his honesty, his eloquence. What is less-often discussed is how he used humor to diffuse tense political situations, disarm critics, and undo the stresses of running the country. His love of words in general, and jokes and humor more specifically, helped him throughout his life when things were difficult, uncomfortable, and downright dire, as they often were during the Civil War. Krull is an expert at teasing out the fun, quirky sides of her subjects and sharing them in a way that is both genuine and engaging. This take on Lincoln is no exception. He is portrayed as an accessible, endearing, and sympathetic figure, not just another president. Children will be drawn in

by the straightforward prose, and librarians will enjoy sharing the book aloud. Innerst's colorful and unconventional acrylic illustrations cover the entire page and are the perfect complement to both the text and the subject matter, making this a standout biography. Pair it with Deborah Chandra and Madeleine Comora's George Washington's Teeth (Farrar, 2003) for a unique look at two of our most famous leaders.Ã¢â ¬â •Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Laughter is not only good medicine. It can also be a political tool, human motivator, and saving grace, as the authors show in this upbeat overview of LincolnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life. Moving through the sixteenth presidentÃ¢â ¬â„¢s many challenges, from family deaths to lost elections to fighting slavery, the text emphasizes how Lincoln coped with a joke on his tongue and a smile on his lips. Many direct quotes are interwoven in a contrasting font within the spreads that delve into subjects such as his military service, when he faced Ã¢â ¬Å“a good many bloody battlesÃ¢â ¬â •with mosquitoes,Ã¢â ¬Â• and marriage: Ã¢â ¬Å“Here I am, and here is Mrs. Lincoln. And thatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s the long and short of it.Ã¢â ¬Â• InnerstÃ¢â ¬â„¢s acrylic artwork feels homey and humorous, very much in the style of his previous work with Krull, M is for Music (2003), and while not every word or picture is necessarily a hoot and a holler, they do present a positive portrait that humanizes the lionized man for whom it was Ã¢â ¬Å“a love of laughter that kept him going.Ã¢â ¬Â• Grades 2-4. --Andrew Medlar --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love biographies written for children! I think there is so much kids can learn from hearing about another person's struggles and how they managed to overcome in the face of adversity. I use biographies in my practice as a mental health clinician to help children practice empathizing with others and to learn positive coping strategies. I read this book today to a group of elementary school clients. They loved it. They enjoyed the illustrations, talked about Lincoln's struggles, and how humor was used as a means of coping. It launched a great discussion about ways in which they have used laughter in their own lives. Great book!

Great book we loved it. I read it with my daughter great job job job job job job job great

My six year old daughter and I really appreciated this book - but not as much as she will when she gets all of the humor in a few years. It's incredibly well researched, written and illustrated. For

parents of younger children, please note that the topic of slavery is addressed as it should be. Be ready for the inquisitive, "what's that?"

Excellent story-telling. A fabulously funny and personal glimpse into one of our greatest presidents that makes his approachable and fascinating. Excellent and timely service.

Not as historical as it could have been, but a cute book to enjoy sharing with my grandson nonetheless. A fun time for sure!

I bought this to use in my classroom but found it was not what I was looking for.

I got this book for a project in my Children's Literature class. The entire story kept my attention and had me smiling until he met his untimely death. Great read for your middle schoolers!

When we (my daughter and I) covered the Civil War and Abraham LincolnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s presidency, two of the things we found most enduring about Lincoln was his wit and how affable he was. He once said "With the fearful strain that is upon me night and day, if I did not laugh occasionally I should die." Lincoln's humor helped him and the people around him during this dreadful time in our nationÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s history. This book did a wonderful job of showing how Lincoln forced himself to laugh through his extremely difficult lifetime; if he could use humor to make life more bearable anyone can.

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