

Honest Abe

a character you can count on

Study Guide



A Musical for Young Audiences
Book, Lyrics and Direction by Mark Amenta
Presented by Face to Face Productions

The Story of the Musical

In the classic melodrama tradition, Honest Abe presents a hero—Abraham Lincoln, of course—and a villain—Crudley Doowrong. In each stage of Lincoln’s life, Crudley hurls adversity and ethical challenges, forcing our hero to face hardships, moral dilemmas and temptations. With the help of the audience, Lincoln must decide if he will uphold his positive character traits, or succumb to an easier, more self-serving approach. Will Lincoln’s trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship save the day?

Educational Goals

- CHARACTER COUNTS -Citizenship; Trustworthiness; Fairness; Respect; Responsibility; Caring
- PBIS - Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports
- Analyze factors in making ethical decisions
- Cultivate personal self-esteem and self confidence
- Support and enhance curriculum in social studies
- Develop and/or refine a concept of leadership
- Experience key moments in Abraham Lincoln’s life and decision-making processes
- Encourage the value of learning at any age

Curriculum Applications

- History of America from early 1800’s through Civil War
- Biography - Abraham Lincoln’s many contributions to the United States
- Slavery, Civil Rights movement
- Democracy and the role of the President (Fall 2012 presidential election year possibilities)
- America’s westward expansion; pioneers life on the prairie
- Local and state contributions to the development of the United States

Length of performance: 50 minutes (40 minute version available)

For further information, call 773-631-2013 or visit

www.FacetoFaceProductions.com



Social Studies Connection: Time Line

1809	February 12, Abraham Lincoln born, Hardin County, Kentucky.
1817	Settled in Perry County, Indiana with father, mother and sister.
1818	October 5, Mrs. Thomas Lincoln (Nancy Hanks) died of "milk poison".
1819	Thomas (father of A. L.) marries again: Mrs. Johnson (Sally Bush) of Kentucky.
1830	March, Lincoln family moves to Illinois, near Decatur.
1831	Works for himself: boatbuilding and sailing, carpentering, hog-sticking, sawmilling, blacksmithing, river-pilot, logger, etc., in Menard County, Indiana.
1831	Election clerk at New Salem. Captain and private (re-enlisted) in Black Hawk War. Store clerk and merchant, New Salem. Studies for the law.
1832	First political speech. Henry Clay, Whig platform. Defeated through strong local vote. Deputy surveyor, at three dollars a day, Sangamon County.
1834	Elected to State legislature as Whig. (Resides in Springfield till 1861. Law partner with John L. Stuart until 1840.)
1835	Postmaster, New Salem; appointed by President Jackson.
1838	Reelected to State legislature.
1842	Married Miss Mary Todd, of Kentucky.
1844	Proposed for Congress.
1845	Law partner with W. H. Herndon, for life.
1846	Elected to Congress, the single Whig Illinois member; voted antislavery; sought abolition in the D. C.; voted Wilmot Proviso. Declined reelection.
1848	Electioneered for General Taylor.
1849	Defeated by Shields for United States senator.
1852	Electioneered for General Scott.
1854	Won the State over to the Republicans, but by arrangement transferred his claim to the senatorship to Trumbull. October, debated with Douglas. Declined the governorship in favor of Bissell.
1856	Organized the Republican Party & became its chief; nominated vice-president, but was not chosen by its 1 st convention; worked for the Fremont-Dayton presidential ticket.
1858	Lost in the legislature the senatorship to Douglas.
1859	Placed for the presidential candidacy. Made Eastern tour "to get acquainted."
1860	May 9, nominated for President, "shutting out" Seward, Chase, Cameron, Dayton, Wade, Bates, and McLean.
1861	March 4, inaugurated sixteenth President. April 12, Civil War began by firing on Fort Sumter.
1862	September 22, emancipation announced.
1863	January 1, emancipation of slaves proclaimed. November 19, Gettysburg Cemetery address. December 9, pardon to rebels proclaimed.
1864	November 8, Reelected President.
1865	March 4, inaugurated for the second term. April 14, assassinated in Ford's Theater, Washington, by a mad actor, Wilkes Booth.

Math Connection: Time Line

Solve the Math Problems and use the Key below to answer the question:

Who was Honest Abe?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Honest Abe:

8 + 7	7 + 5	9 + 5	8 + 7	7 + 4	8 + 7	7 + 5	0 + 9	5 + 5	9 + 2

8 - 0	9 - 3	2 + 5	7 + 5	8 + 7	7 + 6

4 + 8	7 - 1	5 + 2	5 + 8	5 + 4	8 - 2	9 + 4

Key:

10	11	8	9	12	13	7	14	6	15
e	r	y	t	c	n	u	h	o	a

Language Arts Connection

A	T	D	E	M	L	O	R	E	T	C	A	R	A	H	C
P	R	E	S	P	O	N	S	I	B	I	L	I	T	Y	Q
B	U	B	V	G	N	I	S	P	I	G	A	L	F	P	R
W	S	A	C	E	K	L	B	S	M	O	D	E	E	R	F
F	T	T	A	T	Z	L	P	L	S	D	X	C	N	E	Y
C	W	E	M	T	S	I	F	A	I	R	N	E	S	S	K
A	O	L	P	Y	C	N	D	V	A	S	W	E	V	I	B
R	R	O	A	S	H	O	N	E	S	T	A	B	E	D	K
R	T	G	I	B	B	I	S	R	R	V	R	B	L	E	R
I	H	C	G	U	Y	S	T	Y	E	V	I	C	D	N	A
A	I	A	N	R	K	G	Y	W	S	N	N	E	L	T	W
G	N	B	D	G	L	B	U	N	P	P	G	W	A	K	L
E	E	I	C	C	I	T	I	Z	E	N	S	H	I	P	I
B	S	N	R	E	Y	W	A	L	C	U	B	C	R	R	V
H	S	W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N	T	T	F	I
J	D	A	Y	K	C	U	T	N	E	K	M	P	T	B	C

(Words appear across, up and down and backwards)

Honest Abe
 Gettysburg
 caring
 slavery
 Illinois
 fairness
 responsibility
 trustworthiness

President
 debate
 respect
 citizenship
 freedom
 Washington
 log cabin
 character

Civil War
 Kentucky
 pig
 campaign
 lawyer
 trial
 carriage
 flag



Six Good Character Traits

Have your students make a list of all the character aspects Abe showed in the production of HONEST ABE.

Trustworthiness

Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country.

Respect

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

Responsibility

Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices.

Fairness

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly.

Caring

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need.

Citizenship

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment.

Language Arts Connection: Art, Drama, and Rhetoric:

Have your students memorize a portion of the Gettysburg Address and recite it aloud in front of the class. They can also make a stovepipe hat to help them get into character! (Visit http://www.expertvillage.com/video/77255_party-hats-stovepipe.htm for more info.)



The Gettysburg Address – *delivered at the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on the afternoon of Thursday, November 19, 1863*

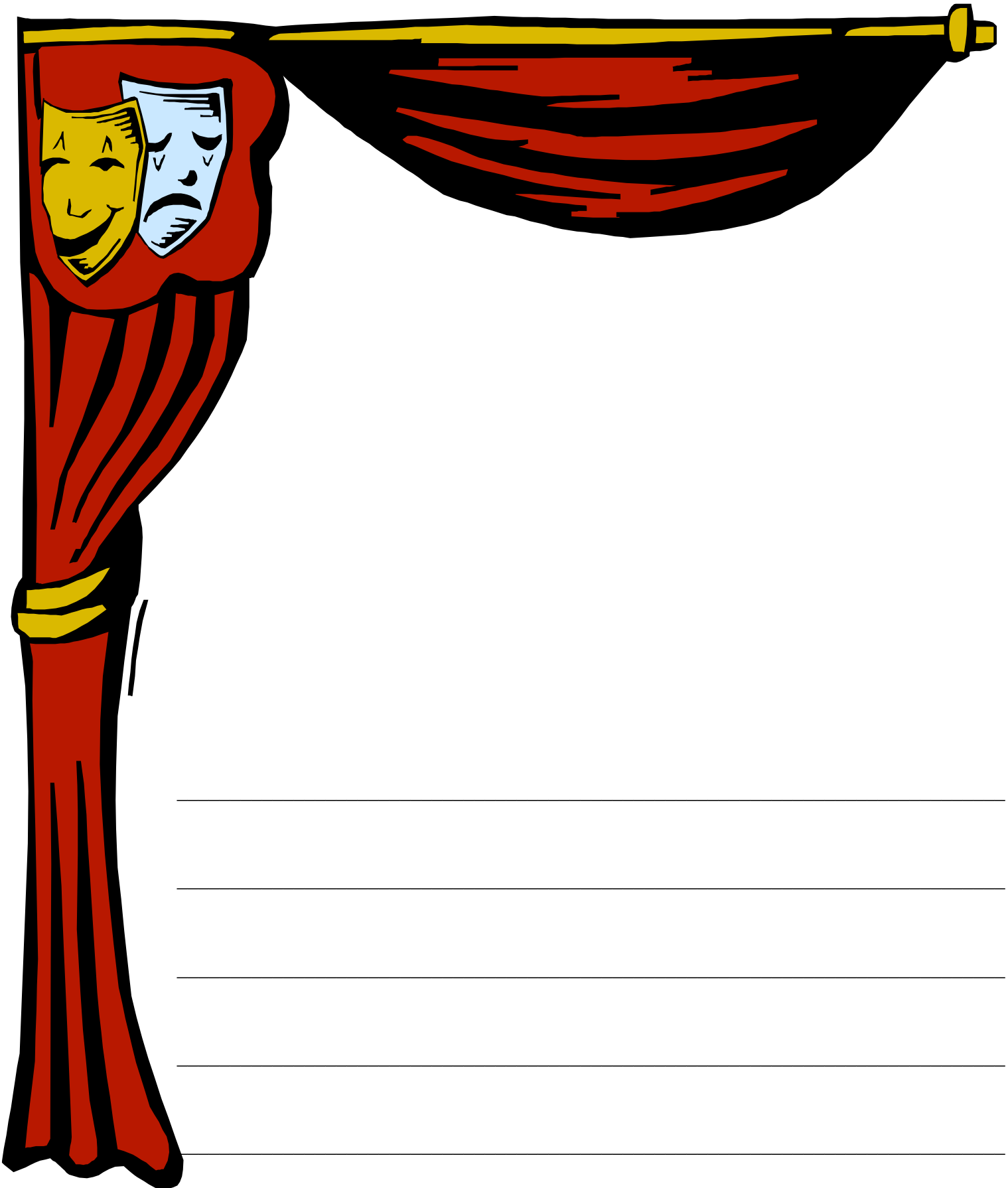
Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Language Arts Connection

Draw a picture of your favorite part from the play: HONEST ABE, and write about it.



Music Connection

Below is the sheet music to "A Character Worth Trusting" sung by teenage Abe and Crudley Dowrong as Fudley Oolong. Teach your students the song and then dialogue with them about the meaning of the lyrics.

Score

A Character Worth Trusting

Words by Mark Amenta
Music by Fred Gilbert
Arr. by Tobi Lowrance

Cue line - FUDLEY: *Don't listen to them, kid...*

♩ = 100

Fudley

When
Some

5

Fud.

faced with some mis - for - tune that you can - not rec - ti - fy, you can
think that be - ing reck - less and dis - hon - est is - n't wrong. Why not

simile

9

Fud.

steal and cheat and lie, plead the fifth or else de - ny,
fol - low right a - long? Have a sense that you be - long?

Linc.

If there's re - lief, it's
I'd rath - er have the

A Character Worth Trusting

2

14

Linc.

on - ly brief, and makes the mat - ter worse, for mis - deeds and sel - fish
cour - age to be trust - wor - thy and true. When I say I will then

18

Linc.

ac - tions are a curse, rep - u - ta - tions that were
I must fol - low through, e - ven though that's not what

22

Fud.

Linc.

It is on - ly just to
good go in re - verse. oth - ers al - ways do. It is on - ly just to

A Character Worth Trusting

26

ud. ud. earn the trust of your friends and fam - i - ly, al - ways

nc. nc. earn the trust of your friends and fam - i - ly, al - ways

29

ud. ud. act respon - si - bly, make a pact of loy - al - ty. Hold the

nc. nc. act respon - si - bly, make a pact of loy - al - ty. Hold the

A Character Worth Trusting


33

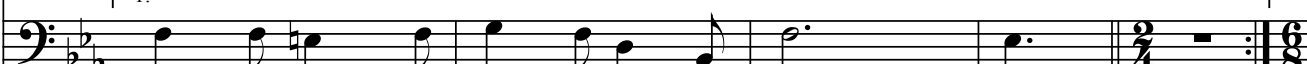
Fud.  val - ues that you know are true, be re - li - a - ble in all you do, that's the


Linc.  val - ues that you know are true, be re - li - a - ble in all you do, that's the



37

Fud.  way to build a char - ac - ter worth trust - - - ing. $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

Linc.  way to build a char - ac - ter worth trust - - - ing.



A Character Worth Trusting

2.

ud. way to build a char - ac - ter worth trust - - - ing.

inc. way to build a char - ac - ter worth trust - - - ing.

2.

rit.



PBIS Connection

The Golden Rule describes a "reciprocal", or "two-way", relationship between one's self and others that involves both sides equally, and in a mutual fashion.

Below are lyrics to "The Golden Rule" sung by young Abe and his mother, Nancy. On the board write out "Do unto others and you would have them do unto you."

Divide your students into small groups and have each group come up with a way they can integrate the Golden Rule into their school lives. Then have them work up a short skit demonstrating their Golden Rule moment.

Once each group has had a short time to rehearse they can present their scene. After each scene the audience can be allowed to comment on the example shown by the presenting group.

Lincoln **Ever since I was a little boy you made it clear to me**

Both **Never disregard another or be cruel**

Lincoln **Use good manners not bad language, acting peacefully**

Both **That's the way to always keep the Golden Rule**

Lincoln **Never hit or hurt or threaten, or treat others with neglect**

Nancy **Be tolerant of differences and help all those in need**

Lincoln **Expressing gratitude and giving others your respect**

Both **That's the way to always keep the Golden Rule**

Lincoln **But sometimes, when my spirits sink**

I can be insensitive and cruel

Nancy **When you're there on the brink, stop and think**

Both **That's the way to always keep the Golden Rule**



Language Arts Connection: Lincoln's Quotes

Below are some of quotes from Lincoln that tell us a lot about the person he was as well as his philosophies of character and democracy. You can use these quotes in an activity in which you:

- ❖ Have students write a short essay or story that relates to one of the quotes
- ❖ Have students write their own adage about history, melodrama, character traits, etc.

"Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves;

"As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy."

"If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said, I am, in height, six feet, four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing, on average, one hundred and eight pounds; dark complexion, with coarse black hair and grey eyes—no other marks or brands recollected."

[upon being called "two-faced"] "I leave it to my audience. If I had another face, do you think I'd wear this one?"

"Common looking people are the best in the world: that is the reason the Lord makes so many of them."

"I do the very best I know how - the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end."

"Leave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today."

"The probability that we may fall in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just; it shall not deter me."

"Whenever I hear any one arguing for slavery I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally."

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan - to do all

References: Lincoln, Civil War, & Life in the 1800's Websites

Topic	Website
Abraham Lincoln Biography	http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/al16.html
Abe Lincoln Timeline and Photos	http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/index.html
Abraham Lincoln Games and Activities for Kids	http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/presidents-day/abraham-lincoln/index.html
More Lincoln Activities	http://www.siec.k12.in.us/west/proj/lincoln/
The American Civil War Homepage	http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/
Selected Civil War Photographs	http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/
The Civil War for Kids	http://www.kathimitchell.com/civil.htm
Slavery in America	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_the_United_States
Aesop's Fables	http://aesopfables.com/
Log Cabin Photographs	http://news.webshots.com/album/442561270AEujNs
19 th Century Melodrama	http://novaonline.nvcc.edu/eli/spd130et/melodrama.htm
Stephen Foster Biography and Music	http://www.pdmusic.org/foster.html
Character Counts	http://charactercounts.org/

