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# Abe's Honest Words: The Life Of Abraham Lincoln (Big Words)



## Synopsis

From the time he was a young boy roaming the forests of the unsettled Midwest, Abraham Lincoln knew in his heart that slavery was deeply wrong. A voracious reader, Lincoln spent every spare moment of his days filling his mind with knowledge, from history to literature to mathematics, preparing himself to one day lead the country he loved toward greater equality and prosperity. Despite the obstacles he faced as a self-educated man from the back woods, Lincoln persevered in his political career, and his compassion and honesty gradually earned him the trust of many Americans. As president, he guided the nation through a long and bitter civil war and penned the document that would lead to the end of slavery in the United States. The passion for humanity that defined Lincoln's life shines through in this momentous follow-up to Martin's Big Words and John's Secret Dreams. Told in Doreen Rappaport's accessible, absorbing prose, and brought to life in powerful illustrations by Kadir Nelson, Abe's Honest Words is an epic portrait of a truly great American president. Praise for the Big Words series: Martin's Big Words\* 2002 Caldecott Honor Book\* 2002 Coretta Scott King Honor Book\* Child Magazine Best Book of 2001\* New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Children's Book of 2001 \* "A stunning, reverent tribute." -School Library Journal, starred review Abe's Honest Words\* "Exceptional art, along with Rappaport's and Lincoln's words, makes this a fine celebration of a man who needs little introduction." -Booklist, starred review Eleanor, Quiet No More\* "Once again Rappaport celebrates a noble, heroic life in powerful, succinct prose, with prominent, well-chosen, and judiciously placed quotes that both instruct and inspire...Celebrate women in history and in politics with this picture-book life." -School Library Journal, starred review Helen's Big World\* "Stirring and awe-inspiring." -The Horn Book, starred review To Dare Mighty Things\* "[T]his lavish picture-book biography deftly captures the legendary man's bold, exuberant nature. . . . A truly inspiring tribute to a seemingly larger-than-life U.S. president." -Kirkus Reviews, starred review\* "Theodore Roosevelt's big ideas and big personality come together in this splendid picture-book biography." -Booklist, starred review\* "Concisely written and yet poetic, this is a first purchase for every library." -School Library Journal, starred review

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (20 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

A wonderful overview of Abraham Lincoln's life. Seventeen pages of concise writing, each containing absolutely stunning illustrations, take you through Lincoln's childhood, early political years, presidency, and death. Lincoln's words are printed on every page, highlighting the important aspects of the story. This book can be used to introduce the presidency, slavery, Civil War, or civil rights. The Gettysburg Address is printed in the back, along with a list of important dates and a list of suggested further reading and internet sites. I am a fourth and fifth grade teacher, and this book is an ideal read aloud for my Civil War Unit. I highly recommend this book - it is a wonderful story wrapped in a beautiful package.

I bought this book because I love both the illustrator and the author. Nelson's illustrations never cease to amaze me - I often think of cutting them out and them in my house!! "Abe's Honest Words" definitely measures up to Â Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., also by Rappaport. I love the unique perspective that she brings to these well known historical figures. My husband used this book to teach a lesson on integrity to his third grade class and it was well received - can't wait to use this one in my fifth grade classroom as well!

Children are facinated with our presidents who were assasinated, and they really enjoy reading about Abraham Lincoln, the president who was instrumental in freeing the slaves. This book has beautiful illustrations and is written really well. Add to this Lincoln's own words, and it becomes a 'must have'. I read this book aloud to 21 first graders and you could have heard a pin drop. They

hung on every word. They were allowed to ask questions when finished, and these youngsters had many questions, ranging from inaccuracies they had heard- to, "What happened to the man who killed Abraham Lincoln?" Great book!!

Our Abe Lincoln is a creative and imaginative look into the life of our 16th president. The author use one of Abe's campaign songs as a starting point for the picture book. The words of the song are set to the folk song The Old Grey Mare. Through the song, children are taken on a journey of Honest Abe's life. The illustrations in the book are vivid and bright. The book will make learning history and fun and enjoyable experience. Our children ages 4 and 5 loved this book and we read/sung it many times! Facts about Abe Lincoln will be in their heads for many years to come thanks to this book!

This is a beautifully written and beautifully illustrated book, with detailed, full-page illustrations throughout. On nearly every page in this book, we see Lincoln's love of learning, industriousness, and commitment to principle. The focus is on Lincoln's recognition, gained from his early days carrying cargo on the Mississippi river, that slavery is wrong, and his life-long efforts leading to emancipation. In signing the emancipation proclamation, Lincoln's words are "I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper. My whole soul is in it." One of the most unique facets of this book is that nearly every page contains a stand-alone quote in Lincoln's own words. The quotes are well-chosen and aptly highlight the author's text. The quotes also contain lessons for readers of all ages -- such as Lincoln's advice that one should "Resolve to be honest at all events" and if you can't be an honest lawyer, choose some other professions in which you can be honest. And in response to attacks "I do the very best I know how -- the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end." Notes from the author and illustrator introducing the book show how much research and effort they put into getting this right. The author read and reread Lincoln's letters, newspaper interviews, and many speeches. The illustrator visited Lincoln's home in Springfield, Illinois and other places along Lincoln's journey. The illustrations are breathtaking. The cover portrait is from a larger illustration within the book, highlighting words from the Gettysburg Address. Other recommended books by the author include *Eleanor, Quiet No More* and *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* Other related books illustrated by Kadir Nelson include *Coretta Scott* and *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* (Caldecott Honor Book).

Themes: Honesty, perseverance/goal setting  
Content areas: Language: using quotations in writing,

synonyms. Social Science: Civil War, abolition of slavery. At once, through the artful selection of Lincoln's own words, Doreen Rappaport provides insight into the core values of Lincoln's spirit and genius. From the loss of his mother, and growing up poor in the wilderness, to his tenacity to read and learn and question the world around him. Lincoln through his honest actions and words kept pushing himself to make a difference for good. In addition, through succinct yet vivid descriptions of key events in Abe Lincoln's life, Rappaport reveals Lincoln's strength of character. Lincoln's own words are matched perfectly with the bold yet sensitive illustrations of Kadir Nelson. Nelson's unique use of perspective allows the reader to almost feel as if they are a part of each picture. Providing an immediacy and connection to Lincoln's life. Not to be overlooked are the author and illustrator's notes at the front of the book; as well as excellent reference material provided at the back of the book. Reference materials include a timeline of important events, books and web sites for further information. Also provided is the eloquent Gettysburg Address in its entirety.

There are many many books being published honoring Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. This tale told is THE BEST of the best maybe because of how brilliantly Lincoln's own words are incorporated into the story. VERY well done! Illustrations by Kadir Nelson add brilliance as well.

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