

WEEKLY READER®

EDITION 2

www.weeklyreader.com

A Letter to Lincoln

Weekly Reader, Edition 2, is proud to present its first online Readers' Theater play for second graders, an exciting read-aloud opportunity that builds oral expression and fluency. This original play is about 11-year-old Grace Bedell's famous letter to Abraham Lincoln. Bedell thought that if Lincoln grew a beard he would win the presidential election. We hope that your students enjoy this play in celebration of Presidents' Day. We appreciate your feedback. Please e-mail us at ed2@weeklyreader.com to tell us what you think.

Characters and Casting

You may want to assign roles based on students' reading abilities.

- **Fluent readers:** Grace, Mother, Jennie, Mr. Mann, House Narrator 1, House Narrator 2, Lincoln Narrator, Post Office Narrator
- **Struggling readers:** Lincoln, Levant, Father

After You Read

Ask: What would you write about in a letter to President Barack Obama? How do you think he might respond?

Costume Direction

Make an Abraham Lincoln Hat

Make a cylinder out of a large rectangular piece of black construction paper and tape it together. Cut out one small circle and one large circle from the black paper. Tape the smaller circle onto one end of the cylinder. Cut a hole in the center of the larger circle and attach it to the open end of the cylinder.

Create Lincoln's Beard

Paint several cotton balls black. Then cut black construction paper into a shape that resembles a beard. Punch holes in the two top corners of the "beard." Tie string to the holes, making loops that will fit around a child's ears. Glue the painted cotton balls to the "beard."

Literature Connection

Abraham Lincoln and Me, by Louise Borden

Abraham Lincoln Remembers, by Ann Turner

Grace's Letter to Lincoln, by Peter and Connie Roop

Lincoln's Little Girl (A True Story), by Fred Trump

Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers, by Karen Winnick

Internet Link

In this Readers' Theater play, Grace's letter was edited so as not to sacrifice the students' reading fluency. To read what Grace wrote in her original letter, go to www.beadles.org/lincoln.html.



A Letter to Lincoln



Standards

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS)

- Time, continuity, and change

LANGUAGE ARTS (NCTE/IRA)

- Read to acquire new information.

Skill Pages

Reading Comprehension

Page 2: What's the Word?

1. poster, 2. beard, 3. letter, 4. vote, 5. train, 6. slavery; **Try This!** Answers will vary.

Reinforcing Vocabulary

Page 3: Solve the Puzzle

1. presents, 2. beard, 3. wrote, 4. letter, 5. handsome, 6. election, 7. poster, 8. office, 9. thin, 10. fair

Practicing Sequencing

Page 4: Out of Order

1. Grace's father ...; 2. Grace thinks ...; 3. Grace writes ...; 4. Grace goes to the ...; 5. Grace receives ...; 6. Grace brings Lincoln's ...; **Try This!** Abraham Lincoln was our 16th president.

To see how Weekly Reader correlates to your state standards, go to www.weeklyreader.com/correlations.

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Name _____

What's the Word?

After reading the play, read the sentences below and circle the word that best completes each sentence.

1. Father returned from the fair and gave Grace a _____.

puppy

poster

penny

2. Grace thought that Abraham Lincoln would look better if he had a _____.

book

brush

beard

3. Grace decided to write a _____ to Mr. Lincoln.

letter

poem

book

4. Grace and her friend Jennie hoped that one day women will be able to _____.

sing

vote

cook

5. After Mr. Lincoln became president, he traveled to Grace's town on a _____.

boat

train

airplane

6. Lincoln wanted to stop _____ in the United States.

an election

slavery

speaking

TRY THIS!

Grace Bedell was 11 years old in the year 1860.

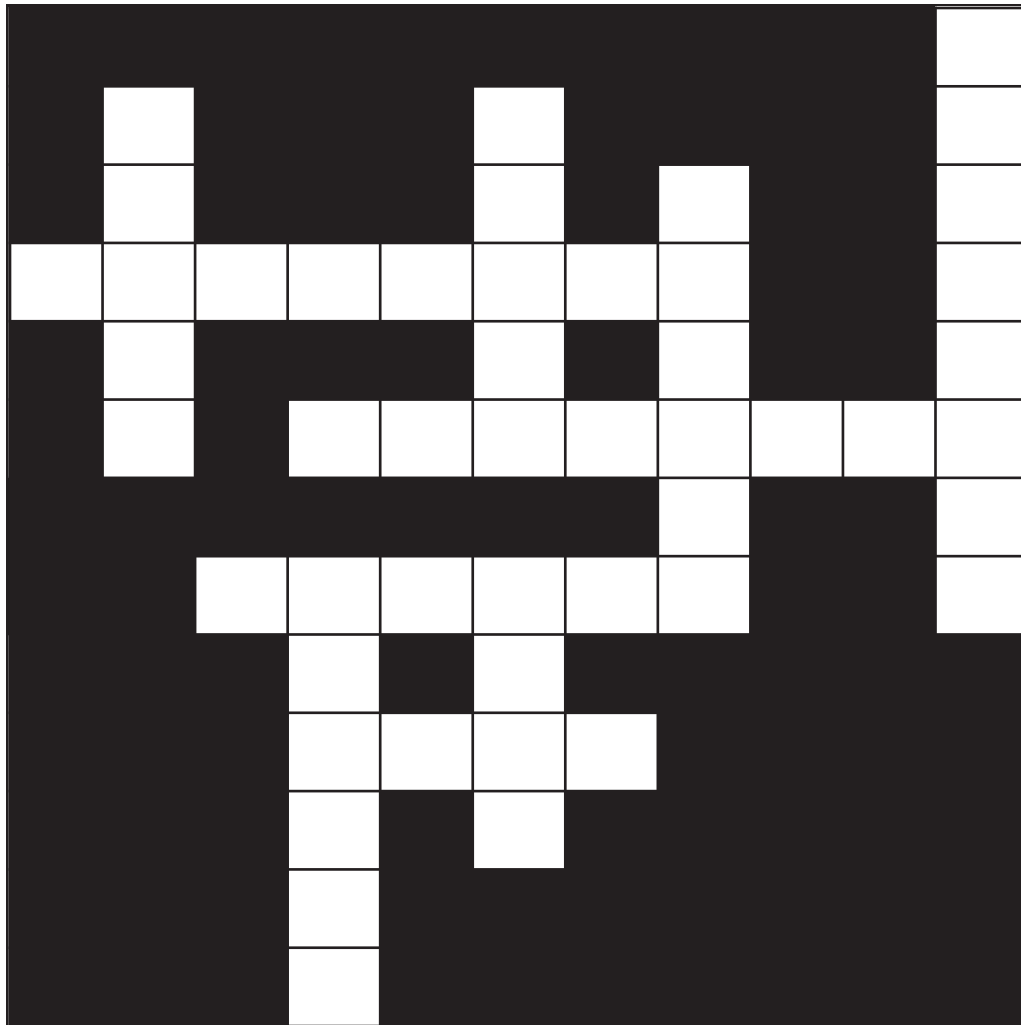
In what year will you turn 11?

20 _ _

Name _____

Solve the Puzzle

Read the clues below and write the correct word from the word box in the crossword puzzle.



Across

- 5 Grace thought a beard would make Lincoln look more _____.
- 6 Mr. Lincoln won the _____.
- 7 Grace's father gave her a _____.
- 10 In the beginning of the play, Grace's father has just returned from a _____.

Down

- 1 Grace's father brought home _____ for his family.
- 2 Grace wanted Lincoln to grow a _____.
- 3 Grace and Lincoln _____ to each other.
- 4 Grace's _____ asked Lincoln to grow a beard.
- 8 Mr. Mann worked in a post _____.
- 9 Grace and her friend thought Lincoln's face was too _____.

Word Box			
thin	wrote	poster	letter
office	presents	beard	fair
election	handsome		

Name _____

Out of Order

Think about what happened in the play. Then read the sentences below and put them in the order that they happened. Number each of the sentences from 1 to 6.

_____ Grace receives a letter from Lincoln.

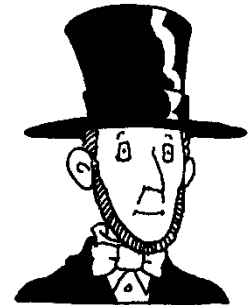
_____ Grace goes to the post office to mail her letter.

_____ Grace writes a letter to Abraham Lincoln.

_____ Grace brings Mr. Lincoln's letter to school to show her classmates.

_____ Grace's father comes home with gifts and gives Grace a poster of Abraham Lincoln.

_____ Grace thinks Mr. Lincoln looks too thin.



Patrick Girouard

Put these words in order to make a sentence.

our 16th Abraham
 president. Lincoln was

TRY THIS!
