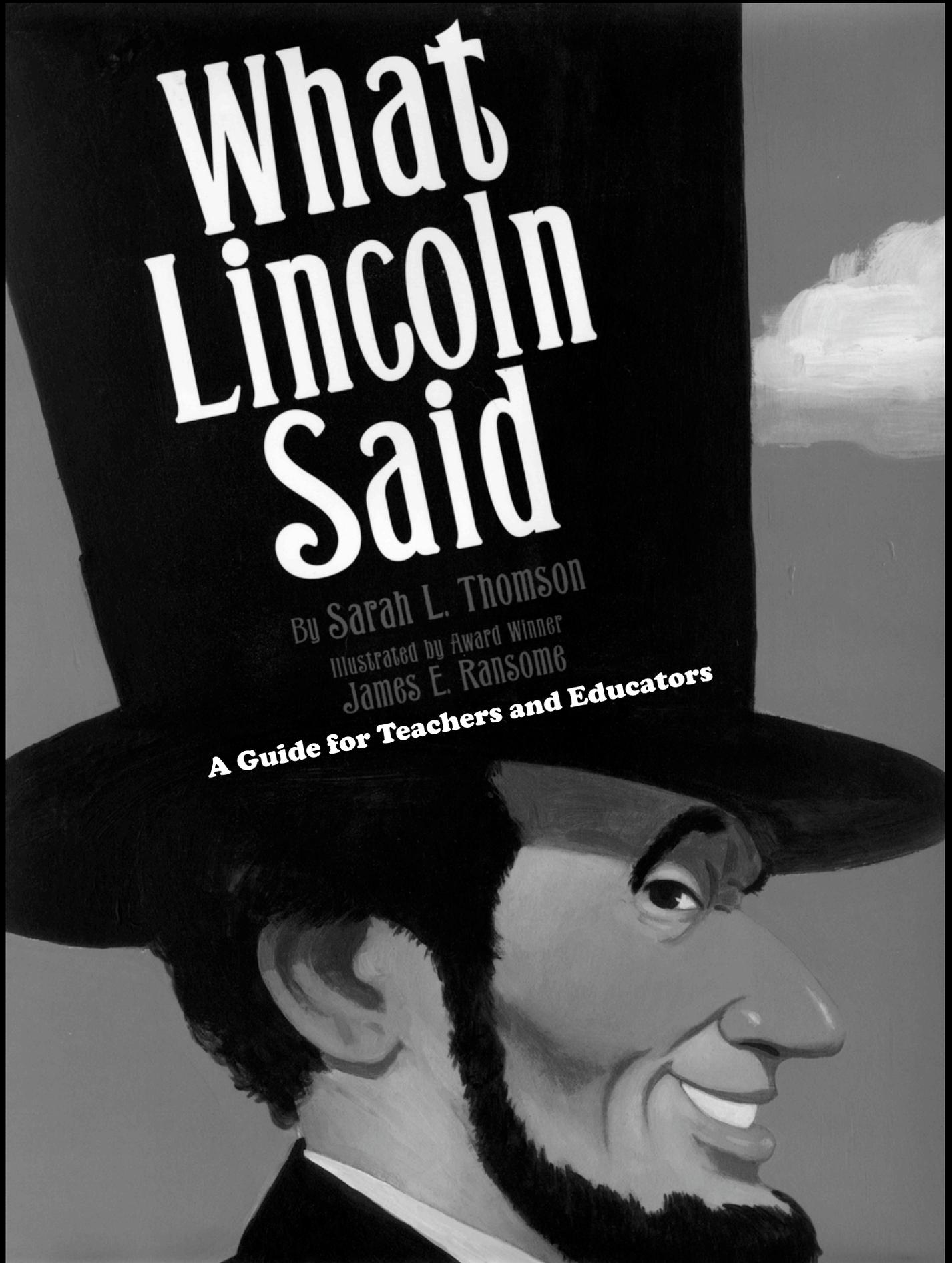


What Lincoln Said

By Sarah L. Thomson

Illustrated by Award Winner
James E. Ransome

A Guide for Teachers and Educators



Teachers' and Educators' Guide to
What Lincoln Said

by Sarah L. Thomson, illustrated by James E. Ransome

We all know Abraham Lincoln, from his humble beginnings to his momentous presidency, from his toes to his famous top hat. But sometimes knowing all the legends can make it hard to remember that Lincoln was a person too. *What Lincoln Said* uses Lincoln's own words to show us the human being who governed during the Civil War and oversaw the legal and Constitutional changes that banned slavery in the United States forever.

February 12, 2009, is the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. It's the perfect time to celebrate his achievements, and *What Lincoln Said* is the perfect way to introduce young readers to his story. This guide is full of classroom activities that will give students new insight into one of the most admired and influential American presidents.

“Direct quotes from Lincoln enliven the concise text... Teachers will appreciate this brief overview of Lincoln’s accomplishments.”

-BOOKLIST

Reading Comprehension

KWL Chart: Before reading *What Lincoln Said*, discuss with the class what you already know about Lincoln and what you would like to learn. Make a list with these two columns. Then read the book. Ask the class what new facts you have learned. Add them to your list in a third column.

History and Social Studies

Timeline: Make photocopies of the images and quotes in the book and use them to create a timeline. Can you expand your timeline by adding other historical events? For older grades, a timeline can be organized by year. For the youngest grades, try a chart with three columns, one each for events that happened before, during, and after Lincoln's life.

American Words: Choose another historical figure and find a quote or several quotes to illustrate telling moments in his or her life. Consider these quotes, some well-known and others less so: “Give me liberty or give me death!” (Patrick Henry); “If there is no struggle there is no pro-

gress” (Frederick Douglass); “Failure is impossible” (Susan B. Anthony). What others can you find? (Try www.bartleby.com/100/ for ideas.) Older students may be able to find their own quotes; younger students may need a list of quotes that they can choose from. Draw or find a picture of the speaker to go with each quote. Create a hallway display of meaningful words in American history.

Fact or Opinion? After reading the book, ask the class to come up with a list of statements about Lincoln. (For example, “Lincoln was tall. Lincoln was the best president. Lincoln was born in Kentucky.”) Discuss which are fact and which are opinion. (Ask questions like “Could you prove it?” or “Could someone think differently?”) Make two columns.

Art

Lincoln's New Hat: Everybody knows Abraham Lincoln's famous stovepipe hat. But what if that hat wasn't always black? Reproduce the drawing on the back of this guide and let students create their own versions of Lincoln's hat. Invite

them to decorate the hat with pictures or symbols that reflect Lincoln, his life, or his influence on the country.

Images and Words: Read the book to the class without showing the illustrations. Have students choose their favorite quotes and create images to illustrate them. Then read the book again, showing the art, and discuss some of the choices James E. Ransome, the illustrator, made. Note how he used line and color to convey feeling. In the picture of Lincoln grieving over the violence of the Civil War, dark colors and lines that move downward create a feeling of sadness. In the picture of Lincoln's reflection in a mirror, lines that move upward create a feeling of jaunty happiness. Discuss whether students made similar or different choices in their own artwork.

Penny for Your Thoughts: Abraham Lincoln's image was put on the penny in 1909 to celebrate his hundredth birthday. In 2009, the U.S. Mint will issue four new Lincoln pennies. Talk with the class about what important symbols from Lincoln's life they would choose to put on a coin. Then have students create their own new designs for Lincoln pennies.

Writing / Language Arts

Your Own Words: Have students choose a favorite quote from *What Lincoln Said* and write or dictate an explanation of why they chose it. Have them explain what they think it reveals about Lincoln.

Letter From the Past: Imagine that you are someone living in Lincoln's time. You might be a free black person in a northern state, or a white slave owner, or a slave. Maybe your father is a soldier in the Union Army. Or maybe you are fighting for the Confederacy. Now write or dictate a letter to the president. What would you think about him? What would you say to him? Would you like him? Would you be angry with him? What would you tell him to do?

Math

Counting on Lincoln: In 2009 the U.S. Mint will celebrate Lincoln's bicentennial by issuing four new designs for the penny. (One will be released every three months.) Have your class bring in as many of the new Lincoln pennies as they can find. Then try some of these activities: create a bar graph to see how many of each design you have, collect them in a jar and estimate how many there are, stack them up in piles of fives or tens or twenty-fives and use the piles to count and see how close the estimates were.

Learn More About Lincoln

Find out more facts about Lincoln's life at the White House website for kids.

www.whitehouse.gov/kids/presidents/abrahamlincoln.html

See photos of Lincoln and his home in Springfield, Illinois.

www.nps.gov/liho/

See the Emancipation Proclamation itself.

www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/

Discover exciting events planned to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/



For more on **Sarah L. Thomson**, and additional copies of this guide, visit www.sarahlthomson.com.

For more on **James E. Ransome**, visit www.jamesransome.com.

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Create your own version of Lincoln's top hat!