

Young Abraham Lincoln's heart pounded with excitement! His neighbor, Mr. Crawford, had just dropped by and lent him the book about George Washington that Abraham had been itching to read! Abraham rushed through his chores, desperate to dive into the fascinating tales of his hero. At last, he eagerly settled down by the fire with his book, the soft glow of the flames giving just enough light to read. He read late into the night, his eyes heavy, but his mind captivated by the amazing accomplishments of Washington. Finally, exhausted, he carefully tucked the book away in a small cubby by the window.

Abraham awoke to the peaceful sound of rain landing on the cabin's roof. He snuggled into the covers, hoping to get a few minutes more of sleep. Suddenly, he bolted straight upright. The book! He leaped out of bed and rushed to his cubby. His heart sank when he saw that rain had leaked in through the window, leaving the book a soggy mess.

Overwhelmed with guilt, Abraham knew that he had to confess. With a heavy heart, he trudged through the rain to Mr. Crawford's house. Head hung low, he admitted his mistake. Mr. Crawford was not at all pleased with the disaster, but he agreed to let Abraham work in the cornfields to repay the debt. From that day forward, Abraham learned a valuable lesson about responsibility and the importance of taking care of borrowed items.

**Select THREE statements below that belong in a summary of the text.**

- A. Abraham Lincoln excitedly borrowed a book from his neighbor.
- B. Abraham borrowed the book without permission.
- C. Abraham ruined the book by leaving it near a window when it rained.
- D. Abraham loved to read by the fire.
- E. Abraham agreed to work for his neighbor to pay for the book.

Anna's stomach churned with a mix of nerves and embarrassment as she stood at the front of the room, the glares of her classmates burning into her. The air was filled with impatient sighs and irritated hissing sounds.

"That will be quite enough!" their teacher snapped. "Now, Anna, we have been practicing spelling all day now. If you cannot spell a simple word like defied, then I am going to keep you and the class here all day and all night to study!"

Anna gulped, her mind racing. She knew he meant it. Taking a deep breath, she mustered her courage and began to spell. "D-E-F..." The letter F hung in the air, her mind a complete blank. What letter came next? Was it I or Y? She felt the weight of every eye in the room, each frown stealing even more of her confidence.

Just as she was about to give up, she glanced at her friend Abraham. He gave her a quick wink and pointed directly at his eye. "Huh?" Anna thought to herself. "What is Abraham doing? Oh! Eye-I" With new determination, Anna continued, "D-E-F-I-E-D."

The teacher's voice echoed through the room, "Correct!", and the class erupted in cheers. Anna breathed a sigh of relief, her gaze finding Abraham's. He smiled at her and nodded. Anna never forgot the kindness that Abraham showed her that day!

**Select THREE statements below that belong in a summary of the text.**

- A. Anna was embarrassed standing at the front of the classroom.
- B. Anna couldn't remember how to spell a word, even though she had been practicing all day.
- C. Anna's teacher threatened to keep the class at school all day and night if she couldn't remember how to spell the word.
- D. Anna's friend Abraham gave her a hint and helped her spell the word.
- E. Abraham and Anna remained friends for the rest of their lives.



**Lincoln Reading by the Fire**

**Correct Answer:**

**A,C, and E**

**B is incorrect because it is false information.**

**D is incorrect because it is not an important detail.**



**Lincoln Studying at School**

**Correct Answer:**

**B. C, and D**

**A is incorrect because it is not an important detail.**

**E is incorrect because it is false information.**

Matilda snickered as she peered around the towering oak tree. She could see her big brother Abraham, but he couldn't see her. The two of them were always joking and laughing, playing tricks on each other. This time, she knew that she was going to get him good. Why, she bet that he would jump a mile high when she leaped out and frightened him!

Matilda waited for just the right moment. As Abraham picked up the ax to fell the tree, she saw her chance. She leaped from her hiding place yelling, "BOOO!!" Abraham jumped, startled by Matilda's sudden appearance. But Matilda's laughter quickly turned to a shriek of pain as she landed awkwardly on the sharp edge of the ax. She stumbled back, clutching her ankle.

Abraham rushed to her side, concern growing on his face. "Matilda, are you okay?" he asked, gently examining her injury.

Tears welled up in Matilda's eyes as she nodded slowly. "Yeah, I think so. But Mom is going to kill me when she finds out that I got hurt because I was messing around. Hey! I'll just tell her that I fell on your ax. That's the truth, technically!"

"A half truth is not the truth," Abraham scolded her gently as he scooped her up. "It's best to just tell the whole truth." As Abraham carried Matilda home, she thought about what he'd said. She decided that he was right, and that she just needed to tell her mother what had happened. She had definitely learned her lesson about playing careless pranks on her big brother!

**Which of these statements would NOT belong in a summary about this text?**

- A. Matilda hurt herself when she was playing a trick on her brother.
- B. Matilda yelled "BOO" when she jumped out to scare Abraham.
- C. Matilda was only going to tell her mother part of the story of how she got hurt.
- D. Abraham convinced Matilda to tell their mother the whole truth.

The once-quiet street erupted with name-calling and accusations as Tom and Joseph, two neighbors known for their fiery tempers, played tug of war with a rickety cage. Inside the cage sat a very ordinary-looking gray goose, who seemed slightly amused to see such a fuss being made about herself.

"Take your thieving hands off my goose!" Tom shouted.

"Your goose??!" Joseph bellowed, his face flushed with anger.

"That's my goose, you lying scoundrel, and she's coming home with me!"

"Over my dead body!" Tom retorted, his voice getting louder and louder.

"That goose is mine, and I'll prove it in court!"

As the neighbors watched, mouths hanging open in stunned disbelief, the two men marched off, their anger growing by the minute.

Just as they were about to reach the town judge's doorstep, a familiar figure emerged from the crowd. Young Abraham Lincoln, already known for his wisdom and calm manner, approached the fuming men.

"Fellas," he said softly. "Is this really what you want to do? This goose isn't even worth ten bucks. Is that worth ruining a friendship over?"

Tom and Joseph looked at each other sheepishly, their anger starting to cool.

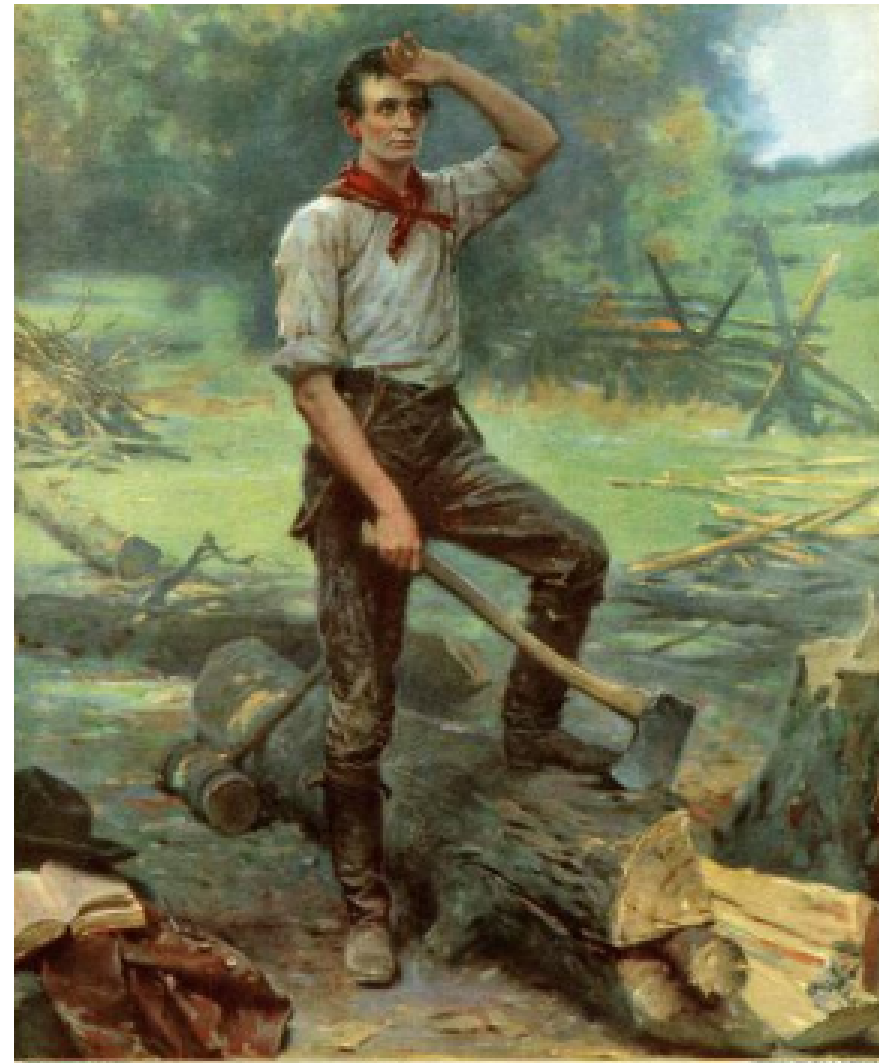
"Aww, I guess not," said Tom.

"Yeah," Joseph muttered.

With a sigh of relief, Abraham watched the two men walk away, the argument apparently solved. The old gray goose sat forgotten on the edge of the road, gazing peacefully forward, seeming to have no idea that she had somehow caused so much drama.

**Which of these statements would NOT belong in a summary about this text?**

- A. Two neighbors were fighting over an old gray goose.
- B. The goose must have been very valuable.
- C. Abraham reminded the neighbors that the goose was not more important than their friendship.
- D. The neighbors agreed and decided to stop fighting.



**Lincoln and His Ax**

**Answer:**

**B**

**It is not an important detail from the story.**



**Lincoln at His Farm**

**Answer:**

**B**

**According to the story, the goose was NOT valuable.**

Abraham Lincoln adored his stepmother Sarah, whose presence brought love and laughter into his life after the tragedy of losing his mother. The two of them were well-known for playing pranks on one another, and Sarah, ever the teasing spirit, loved to poke fun at Abraham's towering height. "You had better make sure you wash that head of yours, or I will end up having to scrub my ceiling!" she would cackle, her eyes sparkling with mischief.

One afternoon, with Sarah out, Abraham hatched a ridiculous plan. Spotting two boys near a puddle of oozing brown mud, he called out,

"Hey boys! Want to help me pull a fast one on my mom?" Eager to join in, they nodded enthusiastically.

"Stomp in the mud and get your feet good and dirty!" Abraham advised, grinning. With a gleeful cackle, he brought the muddy boys inside, hoisting them upside down, and letting them "walk" across the ceiling, leaving a chaotic trail of footprints.

When Sarah returned, the sight of the ceiling smeared with mud had her doubled over in laughter. "Hahaha, that's brilliant, Abraham!" she exclaimed, wiping tears from her eyes. "But remember, you'll be the one repainting that ceiling, right?" Their laughter filled the house, and the muddy footprints continued to make them chuckle for years to come.

**Choose the best summary of the text below.**

A. Abraham Lincoln had a stepmother named Sarah, who was very strict. One day, he pranked her with some muddy boys, and when she saw the ceiling, she got very angry and made him repaint it.

B. I think that Abraham and Sarah were best friends and were always hanging out. One time, Abraham played a prank on Sarah by letting boys with muddy footprints walk across the ceiling. She thought it was funny and wasn't mad at all!

C. Abraham Lincoln and his stepmother Sarah loved to play pranks on each other. One day, he played a prank of her by letting boys with muddy feet "walk" across the ceiling. Sarah thought the prank was hilarious, but she did make Abraham repaint the ceiling.

The first rays of dawn painted the sky in soft shades of pink and gold as I pulled on my worn deerskin coat. Today was the day Abraham and I had been eagerly waiting for— a chance to escape the boring routine of our chores and enjoy a full day of exploring together. The excitement of it all had me rushing out the door even before the sun was fully up.

Arriving at Abraham's log cabin, nestled among fields of vibrant autumn colors, I was greeted by the inviting scent of coffee and bacon floating through the air. Abraham was waiting for me on the front porch. Ready for an adventure?" he asked, excitement evident in his voice. I nodded eagerly, our mission clear: to find a partridge nest near Knob Creek, our favorite place to hunt birds.

As we approached the creek, my heart raced at the sight of the rickety log bridge ahead. With its creaking planks, it filled me with a mix of excitement and apprehension, but I couldn't let fear hold me back. Abraham boldly hopped onto the bridge, and I followed, only to watch in horror as he slipped and plunged into the icy water below. Panic surged as I reached out a branch, urging him to grab on. With adrenaline coursing through me, I pulled him to safety, our breaths mingling in the chilly air. We lay on the bank, thankful to just be alive.

**Choose the best summary of the text below.**

A. Abraham and his friend were going on an adventure together at Knob Creek. Unfortunately, Abraham fell into the water and almost drowned, but his friend saved his life.

B. Abraham and his friend were so excited to go exploring together! They were going to hunt birds at their favorite place, Knob Creek. When they got to the creek, they found an old bridge. When Abraham tried to cross, he slipped and plunged into the icy water below! His friend saved him by holding out a branch for Abraham to grab on to. They lay on the bank, thankful to just be alive.

C. Abraham and his friend were not very careful kids. One day, when they went exploring, Abraham was messing around and fell into the creek. They were lucky that his friend managed to find a branch and pull him out. This experience should teach them to stay away from the creek.





**The Lincoln House**

**Answer: C**

**A includes inaccurate information.**

**B includes an opinion.**



**Knob Creek**

**Answer: A**

**B is much too long and contains details that aren't important. In addition, it contains pieces copied directly from the text.**

**C contains the opinions of the author.**

“Abrahaaaaaammm!” The call from the cabin doorway was unmistakable, and though Abraham tried to ignore it, he knew he was caught. His grandmother’s voice echoed through the crisp air once more, “Abraham! Come in here and read to me!” With a reluctant sigh, he muttered, “Yes, ma’am,” and dragged his feet along the dirt path. It was such a beautiful day, perfect for birdwatching with his friend Austin. The last thing he wanted was to be cooped up inside, but Granny’s wishes were not to be ignored.

With a heavy heart, he trudged into the cozy cabin and plopped onto a stool near Granny’s favorite rocking chair. She handed him her well-worn Bible, one of the few books in their home, its pages filled with stories and wisdom. “Go on, Abraham,” she encouraged, settling with a sigh. A mischievous spark ignited in his eyes as he propped the hefty book on his lap and began to read at lightning speed. “Abraham!” Granny hooted, her laughter filling the room. “You’re rattling on so fast that I can’t understand a word!”

Abraham grinned at his grandmother. “I guess it’s too lovely a day for a boy to be stuck inside with an old woman,” she sighed, shaking her head with a smile. “Run along and play now!” With relief washing over him, Abraham jumped to his feet, racing for the door. “Thank you, Granny!” he called over his shoulder, a grin plastered on his face. “I’ll come back to read to you tomorrow!”

**Choose the BEST summary of the text below.**

A. Abraham Lincoln’s grandmother was always cranky. She demanded that he come in and read to her, even though he just wanted to play. It was very unkind of her to treat him this way. She finally let him go back outside to play with his friends. She was not a nice lady.

B. Abraham’s grandma called to him from her cabin. She wanted him to come read the Bible to her, even though all he wanted to do was go birdwatching with his friend Austin. His grandma sat in a rocking chair and listened to Abraham read. He read so fast that she couldn’t understand him. She laughed at Abraham before she sent him back out to play.

C. Abraham’s grandmother asked him to read to her, even though he just wanted to be outside. He made her laugh by reading so fast that she couldn’t understand him. After that, she sent him back outdoors to play.

The biting March winds sliced through Abraham’s thin coat, chilling him to the bone. Every gust sent shivers racing down his spine as he drove his father’s wagon through the town. Beside him, his scraggly yet joyful little dog trotted along, keeping him company on this frigid trip.

As they journeyed on, Abraham soon came upon a stretch of the Wabash River that had overflowed, transforming the road into a half-mile expanse of icy water. Thankfully, local townspeople had planted stakes along the path, guiding travelers down the dangerous path. Sighing, Abraham scooped up his beloved dog and set him in the wagon beside him. He spoke softly to the oxen pulling his wagon, convincing them to enter the half-frozen water.

Just when he felt they were making headway, his heart sank. In a burst of excitement, his little dog leaped from the wagon, crashing through the fragile ice. Panic surged through Abraham as he watched his furry friend struggle for dear life in the icy depths. Unable to bear the thought of losing him, he jumped from the wagon without hesitation. Gritting his teeth against the biting cold, he reached for the flailing dog, adrenaline surging through him. With a desperate grasp, he pulled his pup to safety. Soaked and shivering, they clambered back into the wagon, hearts racing, and set off toward the warmth of home.

**Choose the BEST summary of the text below.**

A. Abraham was driving a wagon through an icy, flooded road. His dog fell into the water, but Abraham jumped in after him and saved the dog.

B. Abraham was driving his father’s wagon through icy water. It was a dangerous trip, and his dog accidentally fell in the water.

C. Abraham went on a trip with his dog. They came across a flooded road that had started to ice over. Abraham talked his oxen into continuing the trip, even though they didn’t want to. When they got halfway through the water, Abraham’s puppy started barking. He stood up on the seat of the wagon and accidentally fell in! Abraham didn’t hesitate to jump in and save his dog. Thankfully, they were both ok.



**Lincoln Reading**

**Answer:**

**C**

**A contains opinions and false information.**

**B contains unimportant details.**



**Lincoln Rescuing His Dog**

**Answer:**

**A**

**B does not mention the important fact that Abraham saved the dog.**

**C has details that are not important to the story.**