

# A Self-Taught President

## Review Key Words<sup>6</sup>

- lawyer**      A lawyer is someone who is trained to give people advice about the law.
- opportunity**      An opportunity is a chance to do something.
- self-taught**      Self-taught means trained outside of school and without the help of others.
- the law**      The law is a set of rules that tell people what they must and must not do.



## Write a Prediction

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## Read the Story<sup>7-9</sup>

5 Many people know that Abraham  
 11 Lincoln was a great United States  
 17 President. But many people don't know  
 23 that he taught himself almost everything  
 he knew.

25 As a boy, Abe worked on his father's  
 33 farm. He was always busy. He worked  
 40 hard all year long. He went to school  
 48 only when his father could **spare** him.  
 55 Some years he didn't have the  
 61 **opportunity** to go at all.

66 Still, Abe learned as much as he  
 73 could. He loved to read. He didn't own  
 81 many books, but that didn't stop him.

88 He **borrowed** books from friends and  
 94 neighbors. He read whenever he got a  
 101 chance.

102 Abe's love of reading **served** him  
 108 well. As a young man, he wanted to be  
 117 a lawyer. He didn't go to **college**, but he  
 126 read books about **the law**. When he  
 133 was 27, he passed an **exam** and became  
 141 a **lawyer**.

143 Abe was a lawyer and **politician** for  
 150 several years. Then, in 1860, he ran for  
 158 the highest **office** of all—and won. A  
 166 **self-taught** boy grew up to become  
 173 President of the United States!

178

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

# A Self-Taught President

## Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
  - a. Abraham Lincoln became President of the United States of America.
  - b. Abraham Lincoln became a lawyer without going to law school.
  - c. Abraham Lincoln loved to read and learned many things on his own.
2. How did Abraham Lincoln become a lawyer?
  - a. He passed an exam.
  - b. He worked on his father's farm.
  - c. He went to college.
3. What does the word **spare** mean in this story?
  - a. to get by without
  - b. to keep busy
  - c. to give help to
4. Why didn't Abraham Lincoln spend much time at school?
  - a. He wanted to read books instead.
  - b. His father needed him to work.
  - c. He didn't own many books.
5. How did Abraham Lincoln's love of reading serve him well?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. A synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another word. Match each word with its synonym.

1. exam	a. ___ used
2. served	b. ___ position
3. office	c. ___ helped
4. borrowed	d. ___ test

## Parent Tips

Students who read and reread passages orally as they receive guidance and/or feedback, become better readers. Repeated oral reading substantially improves word recognition, speed, and accuracy as well as fluency. Repeated oral reading improves the reading ability of all students throughout the elementary school years.

-- Bonnie B. Armbruster & Jean Osborn, *Put Reading First: the Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read*, p.24