Abraham Lincoln: Lawyer, Leader, Legend

Excerpt from Pages 16-17

When Abe was 19, a farmer hired him to take a cargo of goods to New Orleans. There, Abe saw slave markets for the first time. He was horrified.

A few years later, Abe moved to the town of New Salem. He ran a store and became popular because of his customers loved his stories, his kindness, and his honesty.

Then the skinny storekeeper took on the country’s toughest wrestler. The giant was so impressed by Abe’s strength, they became friends. Abe became a hero.

Abe was working hard to be someone important. He convinced the town’s schoolmaster to teach him grammar and elocution, the art of speaking clearly. Abe joined the New Salem Debating Society to learn the proper way to present his opinions. He studied law, politics, and history as he always had---in stolen moments, whenever he could. He decided to run for the Illinois state legislature.



*A picture of New Salem*

1. How did Abraham Lincoln feel when he saw slaves being sold?

upset happy careful friendly

1. According to the passage, people liked Abraham Lincoln because he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

was a storekeeper

told great stories

read a lot of books

was important

1. What is elocution?

the president

a slave market

speaking clearly

law

1. According to the passage, why did Abe become a hero?

He was a giant.

He was honest and kind.

The giant was impressed with his strength.

He studied law.

1. “He convinced the town’s schoolmaster to teach him grammar.” What does convinced mean here?”

yelled bought asked honest

Do you think Abraham Lincoln was well liked? Give 4 reasons from the passage that support your opinion.

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