Abraham Lincoln: A Giant Among Presidents, by Tanya Savory, is a Townsendpress book of 186 pages, divided into 13 chapters. It’s reasonable to have students in L3 read 25 pages/week in this book, so it could be taught/read over a 7-8 week period. It costs only $2 on townsendpress.net or $4 or $5 on Amazon, so it’s easily affordable.

I have taught this book before. The response was very favorable as the students received not just the reading practice, but they actually learned some American history. Many topics were discussed, including poverty, slavery, racism, depression, learning from failure, and war. Some, of course, complained that the reading was too difficult because there was so much new vocabulary (Townsendpress labels this as 6th grade reading, for what that’s worth, but I feel that the book is at a good level for L3, not at all easy but not so hard for them to feel totally frustrated). Regarding the vocabulary, there was a list of words to locate in each chapter. They were tested on the words at midterm and at the end of the class. Perhaps it would be better to have 3 vocabulary tests rather than 2 so as not to overwhelm them as much.

The narrative allowed for interesting discussions in class (we spent about 1.5-2 hours/week on the book after midterm). I have developed kahoot games to generate discussion and review vocabulary as well as to see who was actually reading. Besides the vocabulary, the only testing I did was the final exam, which equaled 20% of the grade. The test was an open-note essay exam. If the students had read the book, taken notes, and participated in the class discussions, they would have passed the final exam. I don’t believe they could have passed if they hadn’t read it.

Attached is my final exam and then my vocabulary list:

**Answer 10 of the 12 following questions (9 points each)**

1. Describe Lincoln’s relationship with his father.
2. How did Lincoln get educated at various times of his life?
3. What were 2 challenges that Lincoln faced in his life? Explain.
4. Explain the story of “Spotty Lincoln” and how it affected Lincoln’s political career.
5. Discuss Lincoln’s relationship with Mary Todd.

6. Lincoln was a “job-hopper,” meaning that he had many different careers. Discuss 3 jobs that Lincoln had and why he liked or didn’t like them.

7. Lincoln was against slavery, but he did not immediately seek to abolish it. Why?

8. The Civil War was not just about slavery. What else was it about? Explain.

9. Where and how did the Civil War begin? Explain what happened.

10. What happened at the Battle of Bull Run?

11. Why were members of Lincoln’s cabinet worried about General Grant and what was Lincoln’s response?

12. Describe the night of Lincoln’s assassination.

**Part II: Who said it? Identify the quotes. Each name could be used more than once or not at all. (10 points)**

Mary Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln

General Grant

General Lee

The Pastor

Thomas Lincoln

Sally Bush Lincoln

Ann Rutledge

Joshua Speed

1. “I will make the South a graveyard before I will see slavery triumph or see a successful secession destroy the United States.”

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2. “Punishment? Why, Mr. Lincoln, your son has a rare talent, an ability to draw people to listen to him. I certainly take no offense.”

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3. “I suppose both black and white men are capable of the same good and bad. There’s no difference.”

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4. “Abraham, be honest with me. Do you think he’s coming back?”

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5. “A drop of honey catches more flies than a gallon of vinegar. Shouting at people you disagree with in order to force them to see your side rarely works.”

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6. “I hate this state [Kentucky] anyway. I can’t see staying in a state that still allows slavery, and that’s for sure.”

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7. “Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

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8. “Someday he’s going to be president!”

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9. “It may be true that he is not the quickest learner, but he is very bright.”

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10. “I have never supported war except as a means of peace.”

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VOCABULARY:

1. we all DRIFTED in different directions
2. VAST miles of open land
3. Thomas SPOTTED one of the markers.
4. He GESTURED toward the land with his arm.
5. She looked around DOUBTFULLY.
6. a simple SHELTER
7. a CONTAGIOUS disease
8. the meals were DISASTERS
9. He sat STARING BLANKLY into the fireplace
10. SHRUG
11. The cabin was in complete DISARRAY
12. Abe PEEKED through the bearskin
13. They HUDDLED around the fire in FILTHY clothess
14. Young Abe was OVERWHELMED by the huge wagon
15. John smiled AWKWARDLY and looked uncomfortable
16. new beds with real feather COMFORTERS
17. pine STRAW for a mattress
18. a STURDY wooden door
19. FILTHY bearskin that had hung in the doorway for years
20. a new CHORE was more important than school
21. BLINKING rapidly
22. CLEARING HIS THROAT loudly
23. Thomas said STERNLY, GLARING at Abe
24. Abe was MORTIFIED
25. An entire SERMON

Chapters 3 and 4

1. Kneel
2. Reluctant
3. Ashamed
4. Take advantage of
5. Abrupt/abruptly
6. Peer
7. Stare
8. Somber
9. Moody
10. Stumble
11. Self-conscious
12. Head home (head as a verb)
13. Groan
14. Motion (v)
15. Notorious
16. Ferocity/ferocious
17. Auction/auctioneer
18. Whip
19. Desperate
20. Glance
21. Reputation
22. Boast
23. Sneer
24. Sore loser
25. Humble
26. Brag
27. Flaunt

**Chapter 5:**

**1.     Fierce (warrior, opponent, lion or tiger)**

**2.     Fertile (land, woman)**

**3.     Sacred (books, ground, spaces, places)**

**4.     Designated (areas, tasks)**

**5.     Revolt (n and v)**

**6.     Scalping (removal of the scalp done by the Indians)**

**7.     Vicious (battle, fight, rumors, dogs, people)**

**8.     Gruesome**

**9.     Eager**

**10.   Commotion**

**11.   Mutter**

**12.   Gaze (n and v)**

**13.   “jack-of-all-trades” (idiom)**

**14.   abolition/ abolish**

**15.   flicker (flickering lights)**

**Chapter 6:**

**1.     Stagnant (water)**

**2.     Amend**

**3.     Swallow your pride**

**4.     Exchange vows**

**5.     “hold your tongue”**

**Chapter 7:**

**1.     Sigh**

**2.     Provoke**

**3.     Affectionately**

**4.     Clutter (n and v)**

**5.     Mischievous**

**6.     Endure**

**7.     Sprawl**

**8.     Oblivious**

**9.     Strive**

**10.   Look you in the eye**

**11.   Horrid**

**12.   Glare**

**Chapter 8:**

**1.     Alarmingly**

**2.     Devastated**

**3.     Console/consolation**

**4.     Sobbing**

**5.     Outbursts of rage**

**6.     “poker-faced”**

**7.     embrace**

**8.     secede/secession**

**9.     deny**

**10.   fear tactics**

**Chapter 9:**

1. **Irrational**
2. **Frown**
3. **Grin**
4. **Spoiled**
5. **Stunned**
6. **Nomination**
7. **Underdog (idiom)**
8. **A landslide (idiom)**
9. **“gloom and doom” (expression)**
10. **assassin/assassinate**
11. **“common ground” (expression)**

**chapter 10:**

1. **nod**
2. **“a ghost town”**
3. **“a deadpan expression”**
4. **roll your eyes**
5. **wringing her hands**
6. **corpse**

**chapter 11:**

1. **“bite the bullet”**
2. **mourn**
3. **emancipation**
4. **clear your throat**
5. **trench**
6. **decree (noun and verb)**

**chapter 12:**

1. **desolate**
2. **weary**
3. **confide**
4. **inauguration**
5. **malice**
6. **recover**
7. **agony**

**chapter 13:**

1. **eerie**
2. **tyrant**
3. **avenge**
4. **mortal**
5. **hysterical**
6. **vigil**
7. **flee/fled**
8. **riot**