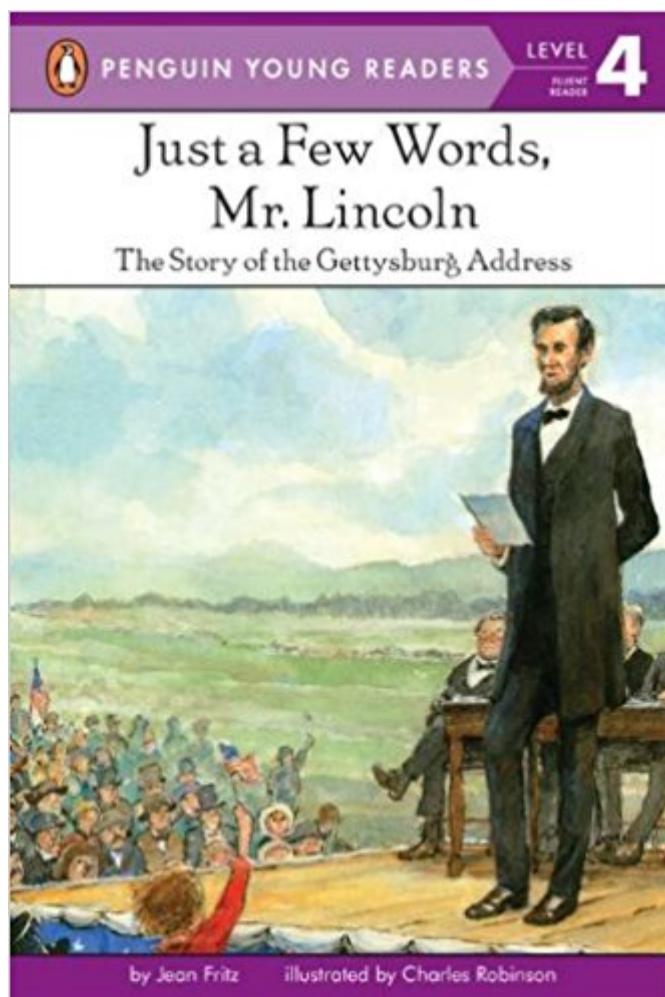


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Just A Few Words, Mr. Lincoln: The Story Of The Gettysburg Address (Penguin Young Readers, Level 4)



Synopsis

Abraham Lincoln was one busy man. He had a country to run. And a war to win. And a family to care for. But when it came time to honor all the soldiers who had died in the great battle of Gettysburg, President Lincoln still took time to say a few words. Two hundred and seventy-one to be exact. Here is a true story about a great man and his famous speech.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 390L (What's this?)

Series: Penguin Young Readers, Level 4

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers; Reissue edition (September 15, 1993)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #85,362 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Era #50 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Political #56 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States

Age Range: 8 - 9 years

Grade Level: 3 - 4

Customer Reviews

The All Aboard Reading series adds another of Fritz's (The Double Life of Pocahontas ; Can't You Make Them Behave, King George?) lively titles illuminating an episode in American history. Here Fritz explains that President Lincoln had two "big jobs": he had to free the slaves and he had to win the Civil War. She focuses on the year 1863 when, after 23,000 Union soldiers were killed in the Battle of Gettysburg, Lincoln was asked to speak at a ceremony honoring the fallen troops.

Dispelling traditional lore that the President scratched out his speech on the back of an envelope during the train ride to Gettysburg, Fritz explains that it was prepared in advance, needing only a last-minute "lick." Making history tangible in a delightfully down-to-earth way, the author writes that Lincoln's address was very brief; after uttering a mere 271 words, "he was finished. It took longer to

boil an egg." Featuring typeface, vocabulary and themes carefully geared to her intended audience, the text informally yet ably conveys the significance of Lincoln's eloquent speech, which is reprinted on the book's final page. Interspersed among Robinson's subdued, well-populated drawings are several period photos. Ages 7-9. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 2-3-A book that focuses on Lincoln and his Gettysburg Address, providing lively anecdotes about the man's work and responsibilities as president, his special relationship with his son, and about his famous remarks. The text of the speech appears at the end of the book. Fritz's narrative has a strong, fresh appeal. However, there's a lack of specificity in some of the details and a somewhat annoying quantity of sentence fragments. Several archival photographs are interspersed with Robinson's attractive, realistic watercolors. But while it is stated that the crowd is to have numbered 20,000 at Gettysburg, the illustrations give the impression of a much smaller group. A map, which shows the North and South in blue and gray respectively, doesn't include state names. Also, no sources are listed. While readers will certainly enjoy the very human portrayal of Lincoln, it is doubtful whether the larger historical issues will be made clear to them. Leda Schubert, Vermont Department of Education, MontpelierCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Excellent history on Lincoln's speech

My 9 year old grand son will like this book. Perfect as an introduction before we take him to Gettysburg this summer.

Really breaks it down for grade schoolers on the Gettysburg address.

Grandson enjoyed reading this book.

The book is excellent for teaching 3rd or 4th graders about the cicvil war and Lincoln's importance in it. It includes the Gettysburg Address which is great.

The Gettysburg Address is one of the two most famous speeches in American history, the other being Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech." But Lincoln's speech is the most important oration in our nation's history because before these 271 words were uttered at Gettysburg the United States did not really pay attention to the opening lines of the Declaration of Independence

and the idea that "all men are created equal." At the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg Lincoln declared that those who died did so in defense of that proposition. From that point on, all of the advances in civil rights in this country can be tied to the Gettysburg Address. When the nation was founded "men" meant free, adult, white, male, property owners. Consider today what is meant by "men" when we talk about equality in this country and you have an idea of what Lincoln set in motion. Without Lincoln's speech and the Union winning the Civil War, King would never have given his speech. The only real shortcoming of "Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln: The Story of the Gettysburg Address" by Jean Fritz is that it fails to address the significance of the oration beyond the idea that it was a speech to remember. Fritz focuses on the story, both in general terms of the Civil War and the importance of the Battle of Gettysburg, and the specifics of the occasion for the speech, including the sickness of Lincoln's son Tad and the lengthy oration by Edward Everett. The complete text of the speech is provided at the back of the book, which is a Level 3 All Aboard Reading book aimed at grades 2-3. The illustrations are mostly watercolors by Charles Robinson although there are also some historic photographs of Lincoln and his son. The important thing is that here is a book that tells the story of a great American speech and at least introduces to young students the idea that words can make a difference in the history of a nation.

thanks

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