

Grade 3 Informational

**Freedman, Russell. *Lincoln: A Photobiography*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1989. (1987)
From Chapter One: "The Mysterious Mr. Lincoln"**

Abraham Lincoln wasn't the sort of man who could lose himself in a crowd. After all, he stood six feet four inches tall. And to top it off, he wore a high silk hat.

His height was mostly in his long bony legs. When he sat in a chair, he seemed no taller than anyone else. It was only when he stood up that he towered over other men.

At first glance, most people thought he was homely. Lincoln thought so too, once referring to his "poor, lean, lank face." As a young man he was sensitive about his gawky looks, but in time, he learned to laugh at himself. When a rival called him "two-faced" during a political debate, Lincoln replied: "I leave it to my audience. If I had another face, do you think I'd wear this one?"

According to those who knew him, Lincoln was a man of many faces. In repose, he often seemed sad and gloomy. But when he began to speak, his expression changed. "The dull, listless features dropped like a mask," said a Chicago newspaperman. "The eyes began to sparkle, the mouth to smile, the whole countenance was wreathed in animation, so that a stranger would have said, 'Why, this man, so angular and solemn a moment ago, is really handsome.'"

Lincoln was the most photographed man of his time, but his friends insisted that no photo ever did him justice. It's no wonder. Back then cameras required long exposures. The person being photographed had to "freeze" as the seconds ticked by. If he blinked an eye, the picture would be blurred. That's why Lincoln looks so stiff and formal in his photos. We never see him laughing or joking.

Grade 3 Narrative

Snow Day

“Mom, it’s the end of March, and winter is over. We never had a snow day all winter,” sighed Carly. Living in a place with long winters, she had looked forward to those unexpected days when school was canceled.

“You are right, Carly, but aren’t you glad that spring is on the way?” asked Mom.

“I guess so,” said Carly. She sat glumly at the kitchen counter, eating a peanut butter sandwich and drinking a glass of milk.

“There will be a chance for a snow day next winter,” commented Mom.

“That is such a long time from now,” Carly said.

The next day Carly decided to embrace the coming of spring. She put her outdoor winter clothes in the back of her closet, and she packed her sweaters in boxes. She dusted off her flip-flops and tried on a pair of shorts and a T-shirt.

“It is still a little too cold for shorts and a T-shirt,” thought Carly to herself.

Mom decided to spend time preparing the enclosed front porch for spring. It was a sunny day, so she washed the windows, cleaned the covers of the porch furniture, and scrubbed the floor.

Carly entered the porch and said, “It feels like spring out here; it is so warm!”

Mom and Carly stretched out on the furniture and spent the rest of the afternoon reading. The sun shining through the windows made it feel tropical inside the porch.

With the arrival of spring, Carly began to notice the days were becoming longer. Mom and Carly started wearing lightweight clothes. Carly played outside every day. She enjoyed playing basketball and other games with her friends. Now that spring was here, Carly could hardly wait for summer.

One evening in April, Carly sat on her bed looking out the window. The sky looked gray. The wind was blowing fiercely.

“Mom, it looks like it is going to snow,” stated Carly.

“No, winter is over, Carly. Spring is here; it is not going to snow anymore,” confirmed Mom.

Carly awoke the next morning with bright sunlight coming through the window. She yawned and stretched. Then she looked and looked again out the window. She could not believe what she was seeing! She raced downstairs.

“Mom! There is snow on the ground!” shouted Carly.

Mom said, “You are right. It did snow last night—twelve inches! Guess what else? There is no school today!”

Carly danced around the room. She called Marcy and asked her to come over and play in the snow. The snow was perfect for building. Carly and Marcy built snow people. They placed a sign on the snow people that read “Surprise!”

“I finally had my snow day! It was so much fun,” said Carly with a smile.

The consequence of a spring snowstorm was clear. The snow melted quickly. School was back in session the next day. Carly put on her shorts and played outside. Now she could put winter to rest—spring was truly here.