

Guided PRACTICE RESOURCE: “A Borrowed Book”



A Borrowed Book

Abe liked to read in bed at night. Every night he took a book up to bed with him and read by the light of a candle.

One night Abe was reading a book he had borrowed from a farmer. The book was a biography of George Washington. Abe read until his candle went out. Then he put the book away. He put it in a crack in the wall, between two logs.

That night it rained. The rain came right through the cracks in the wall. And by morning the farmer's book was soaking wet.

Abe didn't have any money to pay for the book. So he went to the farmer and said, "I'm a good worker. Let me work on your farm until I have paid you for the book."

Abe worked hard in the farmer's cornfield. He worked for three days. "You've done a good job," the farmer said, and he let Abe keep the book.

Abe went home with the book that night. He was happy to have another book of his own—especially a book about Washington. George Washington was one of his heroes.

from *True Stories About Abraham Lincoln* by Ruth B. Gross, Scholastic, 1973