



When Abraham Talked to the Trees
Written by Elizabeth Van Steenwyk
Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth



The power of the word—through reading, writing, speaking, and listening—is apparent throughout this beautiful book. Steenwyk focuses on an interesting aspect of one of our most famous presidents, Abraham Lincoln. The author lets us glimpse the hardships of young Abraham’s day and shows us that although reading is last in Abraham’s day, it remained first in his heart. The book continues to show the reader how words nourished Abraham’s mind and how reading and writing helped to build the humanitarian the world came to admire. Where he may have talked only to the trees at one time in his life, he speaks to all of us even today. Students young and old will enjoy this book!

Self-Selected Reading Block – This book will make a wonderful read-aloud! Also, find time to talk about the books that Abraham read that made an impression on his life. Do students take lessons away from the books they read?

Guided Reading Block – Use this book for many great lessons, such as:

- Sequencing
- Cause and Effect
- Figures of Speech

Writing Block – Use this book for mini-lessons to include:

- Zooming in for a biography
- Powerful words (adjectives, verbs, adverbs)
- Transitions of time

Social Studies/History – Give a personal touch to this historic figure.