

READING COMPREHENSION / A lifetime of failures?

Abraham Lincoln is regarded as one of America's greatest heroes due to both his incredible impact on the nation and his unique appeal. His is a remarkable story of the rise from humble beginning to achieve the highest office in the land; then, a sudden and tragic death at a time when his country needed him most to complete the great task remaining before the nation.

Lincoln grew up in a log cabin in rural Kentucky and went on to become the 16th President of the United States. On January 1st, 1863, having obtained enough votes to pass the 13th amendment, he issued the Emancipation proclamation abolishing slavery and, by doing so, brought the end of the Civil War. He was assassinated on April 15th, 1865.

Lincoln's distinctively human and humane personality and historic role as saviour of the Union and emancipator of the slaves create a legacy that endures.

The 2013 Steven Spielberg film Lincoln focuses on Abraham Lincoln's greatest successes. However, before having achieved those historic exploits in 1863-1865, Lincoln had endured a significant number of setbacks, personal sufferings, struggles, disappointments and failures.

Here's a brief chronology:

- 1818 his mother died when he was 9
- 1832 lost his job
- 1832 defeated for the legislation
- 1833 failed in business
- 1835 Sweetheart (Ann Rutledge) died
- 1836 has nervous breakdown
- 1843 defeated for nomination for congress
- 1849 rejected for Land Officer
- 1856 defeated for nomination for Vice-President
- 1858 again defeated for the senate

Abraham Lincoln was elected President two years later in 1860. Has it ever crossed your mind that failures are perhaps a necessary part of living a successful life? Lincoln refused to let any one of his failures stop him from fulfilling his mission. In fact, it may well have been because of his failures that he was able to lead his country at such a difficult time

Adapted from ChristianCareerCenter.Com

Read the text above and answer the following questions:

1/ Share what you know or what you would like to know about Abraham Lincoln.

- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- Why?



2/ Read the title and the first line of the text:

A lifetime of failures ?
Abraham Lincoln is regarded as one of America's greatest heroes...

How do you react?

3/ Read carefully enough the text:

1. Classify the events into three categories. Then, present your findings to the class.

Failures	Successes	Tragic events / Personal hardships

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