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Lincoln: A Photobiography
Book Discussion Questions

Similar to Franklin D. Roosevelt's Fireside Chats using radio to connect with the American people, it seems through this book that Lincoln used photographs, becoming the "most photographed man of his time" (pg. 2)

- How do the photographs generally portray Lincoln?
- Why would Lincoln have gotten so many pictures taken of himself, even before he was president?
- Many of the photographs were used in newspapers, what was Lincoln's relationship with the media?

The Lincoln family went through many hardships in their lives together. Overall what is your impression of Abraham and Mary Lincoln's relationship throughout the book?

"A house divided against itself cannot stand" (p. 55) this phrase was said by Lincoln just before the Civil War began, besides relating to the country's division, are there any other areas of Lincoln's life where this quote could apply?

The book presents Lincoln as strongly against slavery and yet did not want to the country to go to war, could slavery have been stopped without the war?

On the same note, early in the book it mentions wars against the Native Americans they too were treated as unequal to the European settlers, why do Lincoln and the North not react to the violence against Native Americans?

Today, surprisingly there are more slaves in the United States than by some estimates during the Pre-Civil War days (Source Benjamin Skinner "A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery.") How do you think Lincoln would react to modern day slavery?

Photography really has changed how the world can see war, because it was the first war to be documented this way, how do you think people reacted to the photographs during the Civil War?

With this being an election year and having such a close democratic race for the White House, do you think Lincoln could become president today?

The contents of Lincoln's pockets when he was assassinated are treasured objects of the Library of Congress and show an insight into his life, what can we learn about his personal items?

"pair of small spectacles", "eye glass cleaner", "handkerchief with A. Lincoln stitched in red", "ivory pocketknife", "leather wallet" containing: "confederate five-dollar bill" and "eight newspaper clippings praising Lincoln" (p. 130)