



LESSON - 3

A GREAT MAN REALLY HONEST AND HUMBLE

NOTES:

SUMMARY:

Abraham Lincoln, the famous president of the USA is remembered not only for the great things he did as President of his country but also for his great and good qualities as a man. He was not able to go to school for many days because he was too busy working at home. From the time he was a little boy, he had to help his father in the fields. He had very little formal education but he taught himself a great many things by reading all the books he could get hold of. He even walked twenty miles just to borrow a book he wanted to read. Once he borrowed a biography of George Washington from a neighbour, but two nights later the rain coming through the roof of his poor hut completely spoilt the book. The owner of the book made Lincoln work in his farm for a few days to pay for the damage. Although he had to do some hard jobs, he had the joy of having the book for himself.

Once in Springfield, he saw a little girl standing at the gate of her house, crying. She was to go on her first railway journey alone. It was time for her to go, but the man who was to carry her trunk had not yet arrived. Lincoln lifted it on his shoulders and asked the girl to follow him. They reached the station in time and he waved goodbye and left. Lincoln's neighbours enjoyed his company very much, because he was always full of jokes. People used to call Lincoln "Honest Abe" because he was unfailingly honest. As a lawyer he would never agree to take up a case that appeared to have no justice in it.

Once Lincoln was on his way to give an important speech when he came across a pig stuck in the mud. Lincoln could not stand to see an animal in trouble. Picking up some rails that were lying nearby he used them to get the pig out of the hole. Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the USA who successfully prosecuted the civil war to preserve the nation. He played the key role in passage of the Thirteenth Amendment which officially ended slavery in America. Although he fought on one side against the other, he did not have the slightest hatred or anger towards the enemy. He was assassinated by a well-known stage actor John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865, while watching a play at Ford's theatre in Washington D.C.

WORD MEANINGS:

Pardon : *the action of forgiveness*

Biography : *a book written on the life of a person by another*

Client : *person using services of a lawyer or other professional person*

Pound : *unit of weight*

Southerner : *a person from one of the Southern States of the USA (the Southern States opposed abolition of slavery)*

