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Abe Lincoln's Dream by Lane Smith

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Author: Smith, Lane

Title: *Abe Lincoln's Dream*

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Roaring Book Press

ISBN: 9781596436084

Number of Pages: 32

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Primary

Keywords: Picture Books; Presidents; America; American History; National Symbols; Abraham Lincoln

Review:

Quincy is taking a tour of the White House when she stumbles upon the ghost of former president Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln is stressed over the state of the country and a dream he had that he doesn't understand. Quincy flies with him out the window and around the country, showing President Lincoln that Americans have made much progress since his death and that the problems he worries about are mostly resolved.

Lane Smith delivers more of his undeniably unconventional and quirky style in *Abe Lincoln's Dream*. Smith's muted palette, mixed-media illustrations, and bold typography are set within fun borders and carefully constructed page layouts. *Abe Lincoln's Dream* achieves an entertaining balance of factual history and a silly, fictional framework. Smith's Lincoln is as a man who, despite being deeply burdened with serious issues, never loses his sense of humor. The narrative is sprinkled with jokes that, while corny at times, serve to keep heavy topics light-hearted enough for a children's picture book. The dreams and accompanying illustrations are effective in showing the development and resolution of Lincoln's distress. For example, his first dream is illustrated with a ship in upheaval in the midst of a lightning storm. The story ends with another dream, in which Mr. Lincoln is happily sailing on smooth waters. Fans of the remarkably talented Smith will not be disappointed.

Reviewer: Dana Staples

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