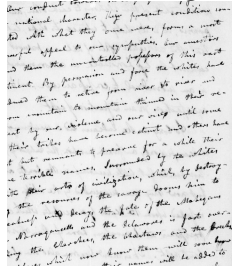


Assessing with Primary Sources

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.RI.6.2 – Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
CCSS.RI.8.4 - Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

Library of Congress Resources:



Library of Congress. (March 4, 1860). *From Abraham Lincoln to Mary Todd Lincoln*. Retrieved from Library of Congress American Memory website at:
[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mal:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(d4340100\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mal:@field(DOCID+@lit(d4340100)))
<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal3/434/4340100/malpage.db&recNum=0>

Topic Background:

The source used for this assessment includes a letter from President Abraham Lincoln to his wife on March 4,1860. In the letter, Lincoln tells his wife about his campaign travel schedule with his sons.

Excerpted from: [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mal:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(d4340100\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mal:@field(DOCID+@lit(d4340100)))

Source Used: The source used for this assessment includes a letter from President Abraham Lincoln to his wife on March 4,1860. In the letter, Lincoln tells his wife about his campaign travel schedule with his sons.

Multiple Choice Answer Key:

- Question 1 – D
- Question 2 – A

Abraham Lincoln to Mary Todd Lincoln, Sunday, March 04, 1860 (Report from Exeter, New Hampshire)

From Abraham Lincoln to Mary Todd Lincoln¹, March 4, 1860

Exeter, N. H. March 4. 1860

Dear Wife:

When I wrote you before I was just starting on a little speech-making tour, taking the boys with me-- On Thursday they went with me to Concord, where I spoke in day-light, and back to Manchester where I spoke at night-- Friday we came down to Lawrence -- the place of the Pemberton Mill tragedy -- where we remained four hours awaiting the train back to Exeter-- When it came, we went upon it to Exeter where the boys got off, and I went on to Dover and spoke there Friday evening-- Saturday I came back to Exeter, reaching here about noon, and finding the boys all right, having caught up with their lessons-- Bob had a letter from you saying Willie and Taddy were very sick the Saturday night after I left-- Having no despatch from you, and having one from Springfield, of Wednesday, from Mr. Fitzhugh,⁵ saying nothing about our family, I trust the dear little fellows are well again--

This is Sunday morning; and according to Bob's orders, I am to go to church once to-day-- Tomorrow I bid farewell to the boys, go to Hartford, Conn. and speak there in the evening; Tuesday at Menden, and Wednesday at New-Haven -- and Thursday at Woonsocket, R. I-- Then I start home, and think I will not stop-- I may be delayed in New-York City an hour or two-- I have been unable to escape this toil-- If I had foreseen it I think I would not have come East at all. The speech at New-York, being within my calculation before I started, went off passably well, and gave me no trouble whatever. The difficulty was to make nine others, before reading audiences, who have already seen all my ideas in print--

If the trains do not lie over Sunday, of which I do not know, I hope to be home tomorrow week-- Once started I shall come as quick as possible--

Kiss the dear boys for Father--

Affectionately

A. Lincoln

QUESTIONS:

1) **Abraham Lincoln states: "Having no despatch from you."** Which statement best describes the use of the word **despatch**? (CCSS-RI8.4)

- A. Abraham Lincoln have not seen his wife and children.
- B. Abraham Lincoln believes his wife is sick.
- C. Abraham Lincoln have not heard from his wife.
- D. Abraham Lincoln have not communicated with his wife

2) **Which statement best express the main idea of the text?** (CCSS-RI6.2)

- A. Abraham Lincoln tells his wife about his campaign travel schedule with his sons.
- B. Abraham Lincoln tells his wife he is tired and he wants go home.
- C. Abraham Lincoln emphasizes the workload he had.
- D. Abraham Lincoln reflects that he has been far away from his family.