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YOUNG MR. LINCOLN ①

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A GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF THE
HISTORICAL PHOTOPLAY

YOUNG MR. LINCOLN



Prepared by

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Editor, School Edition of "Abe Lincoln Grows Up"

***Recommended by the Motion-Picture Committee, Department of
Secondary Education, National Education Association***

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WILLIAM LEWIN, *Managing Editor*



Abe Lincoln Holds Back a Mob

climax in the scenes that show an attempted lynching and in the courtroom scenes.

As the trial proceeds the case looks hopeless, and it seems as if Lincoln is certain to lose. The important fact neglected by everybody else that he introduces with dramatic suddenness to vindicate his client is based on an actual occurrence. In its closing scenes the movie once more displays the kindness, the sympathy for the downtrodden, and the humility of Lincoln as he moves onward towards new goals. It is "Honest Abe," the lawyer, whom we have seen in these court scenes, but it is plain that his character already is that of a patriotic leader and statesman.

PART THREE: QUESTIONS ON YOUNG MR. LINCOLN

1. In your judgment, does the photoplay begin early enough in the life of Lincoln, or ought we to have been shown some scenes of his childhood?

2. Throughout the movie — as in almost every biography, novel, story, or play in which he appears—Lincoln is shown as uncouth, undignified. He sprawls in ungainly fashion, he indulges his ready humor constantly, he is as far as can be from the popular idea of how a statesman ought to look and act. (Contrast him with Stephen A. Douglas, for example.) Is it desirable that Lincoln should be shown in this way—admittedly true to history; or ought he to be "prettied" up, so that his trousers are pressed, and he is always serious, and invariably sits up straight? You will find, if

YOUNG MR. LINCOLN

9

you examine some of the innumerable statues and paintings that have been made of Lincoln, that sculptors and painters have been faced with this problem; and some have chosen one way, some the other. (Find pictures of such statues and paintings to make the point clear.)

3. Do you like the Lincoln that is shown here? Mention some of his traits that particularly appeal to you. How does the photo-play add to your knowledge of Lincoln's life? your understanding of his character?

4. Comment on Henry Fonda's enactment of the role of YOUNG MR. LINCOLN. Does he look like the conventional idea of Lincoln? Does he present the character in a way that is true to history? Is his impersonation of a great man sympathetic and understanding? Do you forget sometimes that it is an actor who is appearing before you, as you submerge yourself in his presentation of the role?

5. Which are the most important women characters in the movie? Which of them do you like best? Which seems to you to be the finest actress? Tell why you think so.

6. What other parts in the play particularly attracted your attention? For what reasons?

7. Did the movie make clear to you an important era in American history? What were some important characteristics of pioneer life as shown in the movie? How did frontier settlements differ from American towns of today? What were some of the difficulties that the pioneers faced? What were the chief political



Abe Lincoln's Pioneer Friends