



A Very Special Part to Play

“Mom, I need my beard,” Arthur said anxiously.

“I have it right here,” said his mother. “Don’t be nervous, Arthur. You have practiced well, and you are ready.” Backstage she helped him put the finishing touches on his costume.

Arthur was playing the part of Abraham Lincoln in his school play. He felt honored to be selected for such a special role. His class had just finished an American history unit on Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States, and he led our country through the very difficult Civil War years. His birthday is February 12th. At the end of the history unit, Arthur’s class had a birthday party in President Lincoln’s honor, complete with cake, ice cream, and Lincoln-style party hats that they made themselves. The final step in their study of Lincoln was the play being performed for all the school children and their parents.

“It’s show time,” said Arthur’s teacher. When the curtain opened, Arthur stood tall in his Lincoln suit, hat, and beard. His mom smiled proudly as the spotlight shown on her young son.

1. What did Arthur need from his mom at the beginning of the story?

2. What part was Arthur playing in the school play?

3. How did Arthur feel about playing such a special role in the play?

4. According to the story, when is Abraham Lincoln's birthday?

5. What very difficult war did President Lincoln guide our country through?

