

“Bang!” The sound of the screen door slamming shut jerked me out of my reverie. I was attempting to play Monopoly with myself, but without much success; letting my thoughts wander to springtime, when I can once again run free outside. I looked up from my game and saw my neighbor stamping her feet on the welcome mat to shake off the snow that had gathered on her boots. When my neighbor noticed me, she came over and handed me a big orange book. “Here,” she said, “I found this at a garage sale, and I thought it would be good for you.” The title read: *What Your Fifth Grader Needs to Know*.

The book was enormously intimidating, so I let it sit on my shelf for several days. Finally, being cooped up at home for so long got the better of me, so I took it out, and decided to give it a chance. Immediately, I knew that the book was no ordinary book for fifth graders, it was composed of excerpts from various famous texts, including, but not limited to *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and *The Gettysburg Address*.

I was exceedingly amused by the wittiness that Tom Sawyer and Sherlock Holmes displayed, but what caught my attention the most was the patriotism of *The Gettysburg Address*. The words, “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty...” lured me in as it did so many others. After reading through the address numerous times, I begged my parents to take me to the local library so I could learn more about the author of such spellbinding words.

As a recent immigrant, I knew next to nothing of Lincoln and his presidency. As I read book after book about Abraham Lincoln, I became ever more engrossed by him. The very fact that one of America’s greatest presidents was born in a humble dwelling such as a log cabin gave

me hope that I too, can rise from my immigrant status and achieve success. Furthermore, Lincoln's uncanny ability to stay calm and pull the nation through one of its most straining times gives me strength and example when I encounter problems. So if Lincoln can unite and lead a nation during civil war, then the least I can do is try my best at every challenge I face.

For Gatsby from *The Great Gatsby*, the green light at the end of the dock added direction to Gatsby's life. Lincoln is like that green light to me, he gives me unlimited hope that I will be able to rise from my humble origins and contribute to the world, enrich it, and make it a better place. He gives me hope that no matter what obstacles I encounter, I will be able to overcome. Abraham Lincoln is my role model. His charm, wit, and tranquility are traits rarely found together in one person, but when they come together in a wondrous mix, they form an unstoppable man who changed the world forever and inspired people like me for generations to come.