

AUGUST

DAILY COMPREHENSION

REM 1114

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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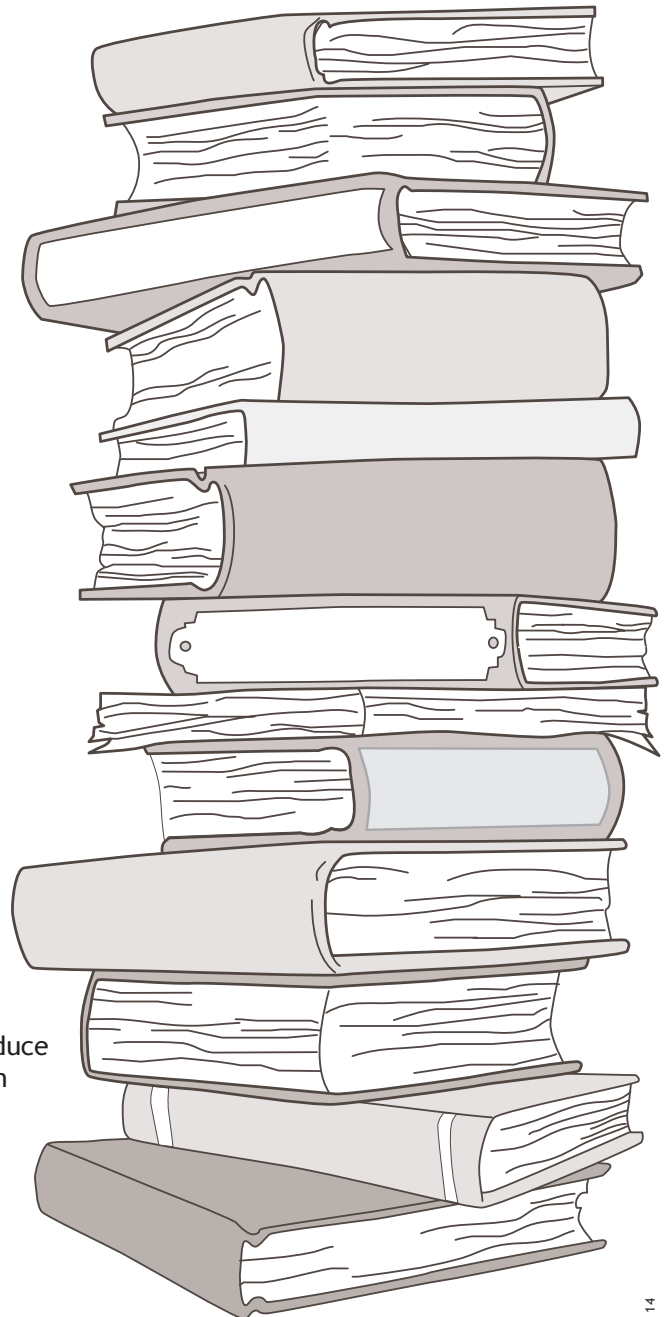
ILLUSTRATIONS
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INTRODUCTION

Daily Comprehension is a twelve-book series with each volume covering a single month of the year. The format features an “on-this-day-in-history” approach. A short, factual story about a person, place, or event is presented for each day of the month and was chosen because of its particular significance on that certain date.

Each story is accompanied by an activity page which tests the student’s comprehension of the article’s content. Activities include questions, crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blanks, and more. A related research project for each story may require the use of a dictionary, almanac, encyclopedia, or atlas.

The books are designed for use in grades 5-12. Readability is on the 3rd-4th grade level.

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EDWIN BOOTH SAVES ROBERT LINCOLN

Robert Todd Lincoln was born on August 1, 1843. He was the first child born to Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. Robert was 18 when his father became the United States President in 1861.

At that time, Robert was attending Harvard University. During a trip home to Washington, D.C. in 1863, he barely escaped serious injury or death at a railroad station in New Jersey.

Robert was standing in line to purchase a bed in the train's sleeping car from the conductor. The conductor was standing on the platform at the entrance to the car. There was a narrow, open space between the platform and the train car. There was a crowd in line. Robert was pushed against the side of the train. The train began to move. Robert lost his balance and fell into the open

space next to the tracks. Another passenger grabbed Robert's coat collar and pulled him back onto the platform. When he turned to thank his rescuer, Robert recognized the man. He was the actor Edwin Booth. Robert knew him from seeing him on stage.

Two years later, on April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln at Ford's Theater. He died the next day. John Wilkes Booth and Edwin Booth were brothers. Edwin had nothing to do with the assassination.

Robert Todd Lincoln went on to become a successful lawyer. He served as U.S. Secretary of War. He was president of the Pullman Railcar Company. On July 25, 1926, he died in his sleep at his summer home in Vermont. He was 82.

Name _____

EDWIN BOOTH SAVES ROBERT LINCOLN

Answer the questions.

1. Who was Robert Todd Lincoln? _____

2. How old was Robert when his father became President? _____

3. Where did Robert have an accident? _____

4. What was he doing at the station? _____

5. What was between the platform and train car? _____

6. What happened to Robert? _____

7. Who pulled Robert to safety? _____

8. How did Robert recognize his rescuer? _____

9. What happened two years later? _____

10. How were Edwin and John Wilkes related? _____

11. Did they work together to commit the crime? _____

12. How did Robert spend the rest of his life? _____

Research: Read more about Abraham Lincoln's family in an encyclopedia. How many children did the Lincolns have?

LIEUTENANT JOHN F. KENNEDY (1917~1963)



Before John F. Kennedy became President of the United States, he was a war hero. In 1941, at the beginning of World War II, he joined the Navy. He was 24 years old.

In 1943, Jack was commanding the PT-109 patrol torpedo boat in the South Pacific. It was an 80-foot-long plywood boat with three engines. There were 13 crewmen. Their mission was to destroy Japanese supply ships.

On August 2nd, during night patrol, a Japanese ship rammed PT-109. It cut the boat in half. Two crewmen were killed. Jack rescued a nearly drowned man with bad burns. He dragged him out of the water onto a floating piece of the boat. Towing the injured man, Jack led the others to a small island. They had been swimming for four hours.

The next day, they moved to a larger, nearby island. They tried to signal other PT boats, but none saw them. Kennedy and another sailor swam to a third island. There they met some friendly natives. Jack carved a message onto a coconut shell. The natives carried the message to an Australian coast watcher.

Six days after the accident, a U.S. Navy ship rescued the PT-109 crew. For his heroism, Kennedy was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Purple Heart. He got an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1945.

Then Jack became a politician. In 1960, he was elected the 35th President of the United States. He died at age 46 in 1963. He was killed by an assassin in Dallas, Texas.

Name _____

LIEUTENANT JOHN F. KENNEDY

If the statement is true, circle the letter in the TRUE column. If it is not true, circle the letter in the FALSE column.

<u>TRUE</u>	<u>FALSE</u>
1. John F. Kennedy fought in World War I.	B F
2. He was called Jack.	I M
3. The PT-109 was a wooden boat.	T O
4. The boat was struck by an Australian ship.	S Z
5. Jack rescued a burned shipmate.	G C
6. The men swam for two hours to an island.	W E
7. Natives carried a message carved on a coconut shell.	R N
8. A week after the accident, the men were rescued.	C A
9. Kennedy was elected President in 1945.	H L
10. President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.	D O

To learn John F. Kennedy's middle name, write the letters you have circled on the lines.

11. The United States was at war with what country in the South Pacific?

12. What word in paragraph 5 means upright, worthy, and admirable?

Research: Who became President after John Kennedy was killed? Use an almanac to find the answer.