

*Abraham Lincoln: A Novel Life*  
Discussion Questions

1. Do you think Lincoln was meant to find Joan Matcham? Why?
2. Lincoln realizes he can read about himself in the college library, find out about the rest of his life, the outcome of the war, and his death, but he chooses not to. What would you do? Would you want to know?
3. Why do you think Lincoln tells Joan his real name? What would you do if you met someone who is dead in your daily travels?
4. If you could spend one day in any time, past or future, what time would you pick? Why? What things would you want to do? Who would you hope to meet?
5. What is it about Lincoln that upsets Beth Silverman's husband Ira?
6. What compelled Lincoln and Joan to be together? Was it loneliness, or something more?
7. Mary Lincoln's struggle and depression is visible throughout the novel. Her anguish at the loss of a child is understandable, but is Abe at all to blame? What do you think of their relationship?
8. Joan receives the family heirlooms at the end of the story, and upon finding the 1955 penny realizes a family connection to Lincoln. Do you have any family heirlooms? Have they revealed any of your family's history or secrets?
9. What do you think happens to Joan and her baby? What kind of challenges would they face in 1955? What do you predict will happen?
10. In Wolk's afterword, he imagines what Lincoln would say to him if he read this book. What do you believe Lincoln would say about the novel? What do you think about the novel?