

Be a Lincoln

By ELENA ALBERT *

“I JUST can’t get this problem, Mother,” said ten-year-old Mariana. “I think I have done everything all right, but I just can’t get the correct answer.”

Mother looked up from her sewing and smiled. “Maybe you don’t try hard enough, Mariana.”

“I try hard, Mother,” Mariana replied. “I try ever so hard. But I don’t know what happens before it is finished. I think I’ll let it go.”

She closed her book, put her things away, and was about to go out to play, when Mother said, “Wait, dear. Don’t get so discouraged. Do you know the story of Abraham Lincoln?”

“Oh, yes! Miss Guzman told our class yesterday that he was one of the American presidents. He set the Ne-

gro slaves free. He was president of the United States during the great Civil War in that country. He was killed by a bad man.”

“Very well told,” said Mother. “But that is only a part of the story, Ma-

rariana. When Abraham Lincoln was a comparatively young man he wanted to be elected to the state legislature, but he was defeated. Again he wanted to be elected to the United States congress, but he was defeated. He was a candidate for the Senate, but again he lost. Although Lincoln more than once did not suc-

ceed in being elected, he was never discouraged so badly that he gave up. He kept on trying and succeeded. He became one of the greatest men of his time.

“Well, Mother, I think I’ll try again,” said Mariana, this time with a



Abraham Lincoln
Born Feb. 12, 1809

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