Chapter 16: Abraham Lincoln's Letter to his Son's Teacher

Fill in the blanks

1. Lincoln wants his son to learn that for every selfish politician, there is a _____ leader.
2. The letter states that a dollar _____ is more valuable than five found by chance.
3. Lincoln advises teaching his son to lose gracefully and also to enjoy _____.
4. The teacher should steer the boy away from _____ and teach him quiet laughter.
5. Lincoln emphasizes that bullies are the easiest to _____.
6. The letter mentions the wonder of books but also stresses the importance of quiet time to ponder nature's _____.
7. In school, Lincoln prefers his son to _____ honorably rather than cheat to succeed.
8. The boy should be taught to have faith in his own ideas even if everyone calls them _____.
9. Lincoln wants his son to be gentle with _____ people but tough with the tough.
10. The letter warns against following the crowd when everyone is "getting on the _____."
11. Lincoln advises filtering all heard information through a screen of _____.

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12. The boy should learn to laugh when sad and understand there's no shame in _____.
13. The letter cautions against too much sweetness and teaches the value of scoffing at _____.
14. Lincoln wants his son to balance courage for impatience with patience for _____.
15. Ultimately, the boy must develop faith in himself to have faith in _____.

Choose the correct meaning for each word as used in the chapter.

1. Scoundrel

a) Hero

b) Teacher

c) Child

d) Dishonest person

2. Envy

a) Happiness

b) Courage

c) Jealousy

d) Kindness

3. Ponder

a) Think deeply

b) Forget

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c) Ignore

d) Laugh at

4. Scoff

a) Respect

b) Fear

c) Follow

d) Mock

5. Sublime

a) Noble

b) Ordinary

c) Temporary

d) Weak

6. Filter

a) Ignore completely

b) Separate good from bad

c) Repeat aloud

d) Write down

7. Cynics

a) Helpful people

b) Brave leaders

c) Those who doubt others' motives

d) Honest friends

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8. Eternal

a) Temporary

b) Boring

c) Daily

d) Lasting forever

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What fundamental life lesson does Lincoln emphasize about human nature?

a) That all people are inherently good and can always be trusted

b) That most politicians are selfish and should never be trusted

c) That children should avoid making friends to prevent disappointment

d) That while some people are unjust, there are always heroes to balance the scoundrels

2. How does Lincoln suggest his son should view financial matters?

a) That inherited wealth is more valuable than earned money

b) That money found by chance brings more joy than earned money

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c) That a single earned dollar is worth more than five found by luck

d) That financial success matters more than how money is acquired

3. What balanced approach does Lincoln recommend about competition?

a) To focus only on winning and avoid situations where he might lose

b) To learn how to accept defeat gracefully while still enjoying victories

c) To never compete because losing is too painful

d) To always let others win to avoid seeming arrogant

4. Regarding emotional development, what does Lincoln want his son to learn?

a) To suppress all sadness and never show tears

b) To only show happiness in public to maintain a strong image

c) That emotions should be controlled completely through meditation

d) To express emotions freely, including laughing when sad and crying without shame

5. What does Lincoln say about dealing with different types of people?

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a) To treat everyone exactly the same regardless of their behavior
b) To be gentle with kind people but firm and tough with difficult people
c) To avoid all tough people as they're not worth engaging with
d) To always respond to aggression with equal aggression

6. How does Lincoln suggest his son should process information from others?

a) To listen to all opinions but carefully evaluate them for truth and value
b) To believe everything he hears from authority figures without question
c) To disregard all advice and only trust his immediate feelings
d) To only listen to people who agree with his existing beliefs

7. What paradoxical advice does Lincoln give about personal qualities?

a) To always be patient in every situation no matter what
b) That impatience is always a virtue and should be cultivated
c) To be both impatient when needed and patient when courage is required
d) That patience and courage are essentially the same thing

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8. What ultimate faith does Lincoln want his son to develop?

a) Blind faith in religious doctrines without questioning
b) Complete faith in his teachers' instructions at all times
c) Faith only in proven scientific facts and nothing else
d) Strong faith in himself which will lead to faith in humanity

9. How does Lincoln characterize the teacher's task in this letter?

a) As a significant responsibility that's challenging but important
b) As a simple, straightforward teaching assignment
c) As an impossible challenge no teacher could fulfill
d) As something any competent teacher should easily accomplish

10. What tone does Lincoln use when referring to his son at the letter's conclusion?

a) Critical and demanding of perfection
b) Warm and affectionate, calling him "a fine fellow"
c) Doubtful about his son's potential
d) Formal and distant, like a business relationship

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