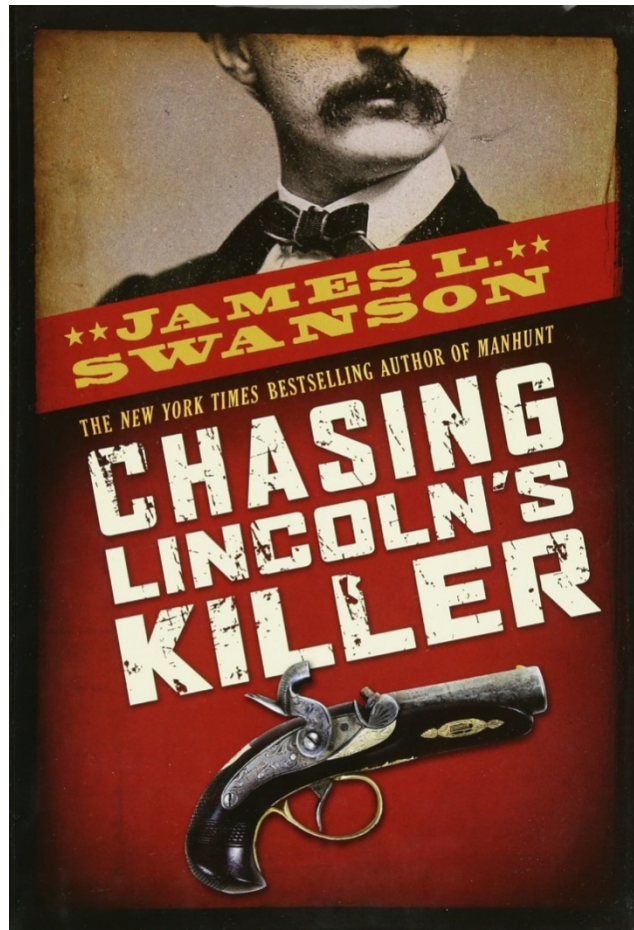


Welcome Incoming 8th Graders!

Over the summer, you will be reading *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James Swanson.



Summary: Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.

When you have completed the novel, complete the following assessment. This summer assignment will be graded as a test for the first quarter. All assignments are due on the first day of school. Have a great summer!

Mr. Pezzella

Chasing Lincoln's Killer

Part 1: Reading Comprehension Questions (2 Points Each)

Directions: Select the choice that best answers the question.

1. **Why did the author include the prologue in this book?**
 - a. To give information about Abraham Lincoln
 - b. To give information about John W. Booth
 - c. To give some background information for why John W. Booth decided to assassinate Lincoln.
 - d. To give information about the fall of the Confederacy.
2. **Why was the Fall of Richmond so important to the Union?**
 - a. Richmond, Virginia was the capital city of the Confederate states
 - b. It was the last of the Confederate cities
 - c. The Union captured General Lee in Richmond
 - d. The author does not say in the book.
3. **Which of the following character traits does NOT describe John Wilkes Booth?**
 - a.
 - b. vain
 - c. handsome
 - d. arrogant
 - e. humble
4. **Why was the Ford's Theatre the perfect place for Booth to assassinate Lincoln?**
 - a. The place would be full of people
 - b. He knew the theatre and would not have to hunt Lincoln because he was coming to him.
 - c. Everyone knew Booth and would not ask questions to why he was there
 - d. He wanted to assassinate the President so everyone could see him.
5. **Why had Mary Todd Lincoln been so emotionally upset recently?**
 - a. The death of her son and the stress the war had on Abraham
 - b. The death of her son and the stress of being the president's wife
 - c. Lincoln was not compassionate to Mary's feeling after the death of their son
 - d. The author does not say in the book.
6. **Why did Booth wait to pull the trigger of the gun until the actor Harry Hank said a particular line from the play?**
 - a. This line would be said during the quietest part of the play so all could hear the gunshot
 - b. This line was guaranteed to produce loud laughter from the audience
 - c. This line was a signal to the others that he was ready to pull the trigger
 - d. The author does not say in the book.
7. ***"In the box, the Lincolns were enjoying themselves, not because of the play, but simply from being together, out of the White House, during the happiest week in Washington."* Which of the following is the tone the author is trying to convey to the readers?**
 - a. The Lincoln's were party people and loved a good play with friends.
 - b. The Lincoln's were a loving couple and happy to be with each other.

- c. The Lincoln's didn't care about each other but put on a good show in public
 - d. The author does not say in the book.
8. Booth jumped to the stage and yelled "*Sic semper tyrannis!*" to the audience? What did this mean? What was it from?
- a. It means "The South shall prevail" and it was the Confederacy motto.
 - b. It means "United we stand, divide we fall" and it was the Union motto
 - c. It means "Thus always to Tyrants" and it is the state motto of Virginia
 - d. It means "Equal rights to all" and it is the state motto of Washington
9. Lewis Powell was to enter Secretary Seward's house to assassinate him, but encountered three problems. Which of the following is NOT one of the problems Powell encountered?
- a. How to enter the Seward house
 - b. How many people were in the house
 - c. How was he going to find Seward in the house
 - d. Which weapon would work best to assassinate Seward.
10. Who was the first to examine President Lincoln and discover his wound?
- a.
 - b. Major Rathbone
 - c. Mary Todd Lincoln
 - d. Clare Harris
 - e. Dr. Charles Leale
- 11.
12. Dr. Leale announced his diagnosis and prediction. "*His wound is mortal; it is impossible for him to recover.*" What did Leale mean?
- a. Without quick medical attention, the president would die.
 - b. The wound would cause Lincoln's death and there was nothing anyone could do to save him
 - c. The wound was serious and Lincoln would never be able to walk again
 - d. Dr. Leale was not sure what was going to happen to the president without having a second opinion.
13. "*Major Rathbone, standing between Dr. Leale and the President, asked the doctor to treat him first...*" Which of the following is a character trait that would describe Major Rathbone in this scene?
- a.
 - b. vain
 - c. conceited
 - d. selfish
 - e. compassionate
- 14.
15. What was George Atzerodt's job the night Booth assassinated Lincoln?
- a. To be Seward's bodyguard
 - b. To assassinate Vice President Andrew Johnson
 - c. To hold Powell's horse outside of Seward's house
 - d. The author does not say in the book.
16. Why did Laura Keene rush to comfort the President?

- a. Laura and Mary Todd Lincoln had been friends for many years
- b. She knew history was being made and knew she must be part of it
- c. She wanted to help Dr. Leale and the President
- d. The author does not say in the book.

17. Lincoln was shot on the most solemn day of the Christian calendar. What day was it?

- a. The first day of Lent
- b. Good Friday
- c. Christmas
- d. Arbor Day

18. Why couldn't Dr. Leale move Lincoln to the White House?

- a. The White House was too far
- b. The carriage ride in the muddy, rutted road would be too much for the president
- c. They were afraid other assassins would try to hurt the president on the way there
- d. The author does not say in the book.

19. How did John Harrison Surratt meet John Wilkes Booth?

- a. Dr. Mudd introduced Booth to John Surratt in Washington
- b. John Surratt met Booth at his mother's boardinghouse
- c. Booth introduced Dr. Mudd to John Surratt
- d. John Surratt and John Booth never met

20. What day and time was President Lincoln pronounced dead?

- a. April 14, 1865 at 7:22am
- b. April 14, 1865 at 7:02am
- c. April 15, 1865 at 7:22am
- d. April 16, 1865 at 7:20am

21. Why did Edwin Stanton cut a lock of President Lincoln's hair and seal it in an envelope?

- a. To save as a memento of his President
- b. To give to Mary Todd
- c. To give to Mary Jane Welles who deserved this memento for all she did for the Lincoln family
- d. The author does not say in the book.

22. Where did Cox tell Booth and Herold to hide until someone came for them?

- a. In the Cox's barn
- b. In a rock enclosure by the Potomac River
- c. In a heavily wooded pine thicket
- d. Upstairs in the Cox attic

23. How did Lewis Powell end up being arrested?

- a. He came to the Surratt boardinghouse acting as a ditch digger.
- b. He was found hiding in the attic of the Surratt boardinghouse
- c. He was caught sneaking in the back entrance
- d. The author does not say in the book.

24. ***“Every building lining the avenue wept with black crepe.”*** This sentence from the novel is an example of which of the following?
- personification
 - irony
 - simile
 - metaphor
25. **Where did Booth and Herold hide when they heard the Cavalry coming up the to the Garrett farm?**
- The basement
 - The attic
 - The tobacco barn
 - The upstairs bedroom
26. **How did Booth die?**
- Boston Corbett shot Booth in the neck
 - He was hanged with four of his conspirators
 - He burned in the fire
 - In prison after many years
27. ***“The muzzle flash lighted the box for a moment like a miniature lightning bolt.”*** is an example of
- simile
 - personification
 - metaphor
 - onomatopoeia

Part 2: Wanted Poster (30 Points)

After reading Chapter 4 of Chasing Lincoln’s Killer, create a wanted poster for one of the following conspirators: David Herold, Lewis Powell, George Atzerodt, Mary Surratt, or John Wilkes Booth.

Instructions:

- Step 1: Select a character.
- Step 2: Make a physical description of the character and include any outstanding or distinguishing traits about a character that you know from the book. For example, you should list the following: height, weight, gender, hair color, eye color, scars, clothing, nationality, etc.
- Step 3: Describe why the character is "wanted." What terrible thing did the character do? Is the character hiding? Is the character with another character? Is the character "armed and dangerous"? Is the character on the run?
- Step 4: What is the character like? What does the character like to do? What skills or hobbies does the character have?

- Step 5: Write where the character was last seen.
- Step 6: Use a free Wanted Poster template online and fill in the information. Be sure to include an image. OR, use blank printer paper to create the poster. Use colored pencils or markers to create poster. Be neat when writing, include all information, and an image.

Part 3: Essay (20 Points)

Question: Did John Wilkes Booth accomplish his goal?

When John Wilkes Booth assassinated the President of the United States, he did so for a reason. In a three paragraph essay, explain the reason that Booth killed Lincoln, identify Booth's goal, and explain whether or not Booth accomplished that goal.