



Introductory Information:

This was designed as the second of three modules exploring the Civil War and the Lincoln Assassination. The first section is a general study of the Civil War using a standard textbook and assessments. The third module is an in-depth research project, studying the individuals, object and places central to the assassination with a formal paper and presentation as an assessment.

A couple notes on timing:

- Because each chapter is a different length, you will have to play with timing based on class length, the chapter and the relative talkativeness of the students. Some chapters bring out more discussion and you may need to extend that chapter into part of the next day's lesson. Some chapters may not and you may need to move on.
- This lesson was designed to be completed in class, with no homework. If you have the luxury of roughly two weeks to work on the book, this lesson works as written. If you do not have that luxury, consider completing one chapter in class a day and assigning one chapter reading for homework—most of the chapters could be read in 20-30 minutes. Please note, the opening and closing activities were designed for groups and should be done in class and not as homework.



Chapter Review questions (adapted from online discussion guide of the book by Scholastic) *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson

Chapter Review questions

PROLOGUE:

1. Who was just above the president as he made his inaugural speech?
2. What strange thing happened as the president arose to make his inaugural speech?
3. Why did people celebrate in the Union capital on April 3, 1865?
4. Why was Booth so angry on the evening of April 13, 1865?

CHAPTER I:

1. Describe John Wilkes Booth.
2. Why did the Lincoln's notify Ford's Theatre?
3. Why was Booth so excited Lincoln was coming to Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865?
4. Why did Booth visit Mary Surratt?
5. Booth made final arrangements. What were they?
6. Booth had two weapons. What were they?
7. Why had Mary Lincoln been so emotionally upset lately?
8. What time did the Lincoln's arrive at Ford's Theatre?

CHAPTER II:

1. How many times did Booth enter Ford's Theatre?
2. Where did Booth go prior to entering the president's box?
3. Why was Booth surprised as he entered the president's box?
4. Why did Booth wait until almost the end of the play to shoot Lincoln?
5. Who else was injured in the assassination? How?
6. Why do you think no one tried to stop Booth as he fled?

CHAPTER III:

1. What were Powell's 3 problems encountered if he were to kill Seward?
2. What role did Herold play?
3. Who did Powell attempt to shoot? What happened?
4. How did Powell wound Seward? Describe the wound.
5. Who did Powell wound next? Describe the wounds.
6. Why do you think Powell only "trotted" away from the Seward mansion instead of galloping away quickly?

CHAPTER IV:

1. Who chased Booth from the theatre? Did he catch him? Why or why not?
2. How did Booth arrange to get across the Navy Yard Bridge when it closed at 9:00 p.m.?
3. Who came to Lincoln's rescue at Ford's Theatre? What did this person do?
4. Major Rathbone's actions were quite selfish. How so?
5. What did Atzerodt decide to do that night? Why?
6. How is Laura Keene best remembered?
7. Why did officials want to move Lincoln from Ford's Theatre?



8. Where did officials finally take the president?

CHAPTER V:

1. How did news of the president's and Seward's alleged assassination travel? Why?
2. Where did Booth and Herold go first? Second?
3. Who took over when they arrived at the Peterson House? Why?
4. Who tended to Booth's injury? Describe the injury he sustained.
5. How did John Harrison Surratt meet John Wilkes Booth?
6. What did Booth decide to do once his injury was treated?

CHAPTER VI:

1. Who wanted a "lock" of Lincoln's hair? Why?
2. Why would Mary Todd Lincoln not see the president once he was dead?
3. There were 4 errors reported in the article on page 105. What were they?
4. What mistake did Atzerodt make the morning of April 15, 1865?
5. Why didn't Herold get a carriage to transport the wounded Booth?
6. Why didn't Dr. Mudd alert authorities that Booth was at his farm initially?

CHAPTER VII:

1. How did Booth persuade Cox to invite him into his home?
2. Where did Cox suggest Herold and Booth hide? Why?
3. How would Booth and Herold know who Cox sent was there to help them?
4. For what two reasons was Jones so eager to help Booth and Herold?
5. When would Booth and Herold leave their hiding place?
6. What did Booth request Jones bring him upon his return? Why?
7. Why would Atzerodt be caught?
8. What did Herold do with he and Booth's horses? Why?
9. Why had Lieutenant Dana ignored Dr. Mudd's report?

CHAPTER VIII:

1. What did Powell tell soldiers he was at the boarding house to do?
2. What mistake did Powell make that night?
3. What did Mary Surratt tell authorities upon questioning?
4. What happened to Mary Surratt?
5. What did authorities do to Ford's Theatre? Why?
6. Why couldn't Stanton devote enough time to the "manhunt"?

CHAPTER IX:

1. Why were Booth and Herold not in their "best appearance"?
2. Why was Booth angry at his "actor friend"?
3. What happened on April 19, 1865?
4. Why did Richter finally tell soldiers Atzerodt was upstairs?
5. How many were still not captured at the end of this chapter? Name them.

CHAPTER X:

1. Why would Jones not take money initially from Booth? When he finally did, how much did he take? Why?
2. Why did Dr. Mudd tell Wells he did not recognize Booth?



3. What happened to Jones eventually?
4. Why were Booth and Herold “off course”?
5. The government was planning to capture Booth and Herold through the help of whom?
6. Where were Booth and Herold forced to hide out? For how long?

CHAPTER XI (pp. 151-165)

1. Who helped Booth and Herold once in Virginia? Why did this person seek others to help as well?
2. Who helped Booth and Herold next? Why did this person send them away?
3. In Port Conway, who suddenly appeared?
4. Where did Booth and Herold go next in Port Conway?
5. Why did this person agree to take Booth and Herold in?
6. Why did Herold leave Booth on April 24, 1865?
7. What alarmed Richard Garrett about Booth?
8. Why did Booth and Herold run into the woods behind Garrett’s barn?
9. Where did Booth and Herold sleep the night of April 25, 1865? Why?
10. What did the Garrett’s do?

CHAPTER XI (pp. 165-177)

1. Why was Booth awakened the late hours of April 25, 1865?
2. What did Richard Garrett finally tell the cavalry where Booth was hiding?
3. Why was John Garrett forced to go into the tobacco barn?
4. Who surrendered? Why?
5. What did Conger decide to do to capture Booth?
6. What did Boston Corbett do?
7. Why did Conger not kill Booth?
8. Why had the shooter of Booth fired? (What was his reasoning?)

CHAPTER XII

1. What did Lt. Doherty do to Booth’s body?
2. Why did Conger ride “ahead” of Booth’s body entourage?
3. Why was an autopsy ordered on Booth’s body?
4. Why was the press not informed of Booth’s “final resting place”?
5. Where was Booth buried? In your opinion, was that appropriate?

CHAPTER XIII:

1. How many people were put on trial for the Lincoln assassination? Name them.
2. How long did the government take to pay the reward offered for Lincoln’s killers?
3. Who was really innocent but found guilty?
4. Why was Garrett never reimbursed for the damage to his barn and property?
5. Why was Corbett never charged with a crime? What eventually happened to him?

CHAPTER XIV:

1. How many of the conspirators charged were put to death? How? Name them.
2. Name two things the conspirators had to wear in prison up to their execution.

EPILOGUE:

1. What honor was “almost” bestowed upon Edwin Stanton?



2. Why do you think William Steward turned to one side when photographed?
3. What hideous crime did Rathbone commit? Why?
4. Was John Surratt “caught”? Was he found guilty of conspiracy? Why or why not?
5. What eventually became of Dr. Mudd?
6. How is Ford’s Theatre a memorial? To whom? Explain.
7. Does Lincoln have a memorial? Where is it located?



Chapter Review and Big Picture questions (adapted from online discussion guide of the book by Scholastic) *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson

Big Picture Questions –Note that there are chapters with no 'big picture' questions and some with two. They are meant as guiding questions so please feel free to adjust as needed for your particular class. You may find that your student's questions during the reading work as a better framework for the whole class discussion. Think of the Big Picture questions as a template from you to build.

1. Why do you think the author included the prologue in the story? Is this a good summary of a long and complicated war?
2. Why is John Wilkes Booth so angry? How did Booth's career as an actor influence his plan for the assassination? Did it also help with his escape?
3. What happened at the home of Secretary of State William H. Seward? Was the attack more brutal than the original plan?
4. Evaluate the escape plans of the conspirators. What helped and hindered their escapes? Who aided them? In your opinion are people who aid criminals as guilty as those who commit the crimes or not?
5. Who was Edwin Stanton? What decisions did he make after the assassination of Lincoln? Did you consider his treatment of Mary Todd Lincoln cruel?
6. What part did Mary Surratt and Dr. Samuel Mudd play in the assassination? Do you think they both deserved to be punished so harshly for their crimes? Who else assisted but was not brought to justice?
7. Who is Thomas Jones? How does he support Booth and Herold? How does his intimate knowledge of the Potomac become necessary?
8. Why was Booth surprised by the reactions to the assassination in the D.C. newspapers? How had the tide of opinion changed about the president?
9. Were the Garrett's duped into helping John Wilkes Booth and David Herold? In the end, how did the Garrett's end up aiding the Union troops in their pursuit of these most wanted outlaws?
10. Did John Wilkes Booth plan his escape carefully? Why did he encounter so many problems? What happened to him in the end? What were his last words?)