

# Summer Book Assignment for Sixth Grade Literature and Composition

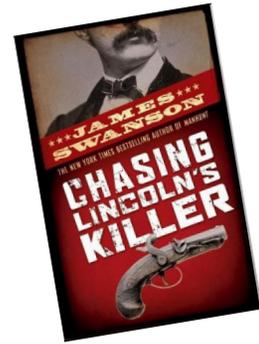
## *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*

by

James L. Swanson

\*\*\*Please make sure to get this exact book (children's version).

He also wrote one for adult readers.



DUE DATE: first day of school

Please complete the following tasks after reading this book. Please make sure to read every section of the book (cover to cover). As you complete each task on a sheet on lined notebook papers, please write down the part and then complete the activity (ex. Part 1: and then answer the questions).

### **Part 1: Primary Sources**

Primary sources are first-hand accounts of history. These are written documents, pictures or maps that existed at the time the event happened. Look at the following pages I have written below. In one sentence, explain why these documents, pictures or maps are important to put in the book (what do they help the reader to understand).

Page 2 (picture of John Wilkes Booth)

Page 4 (picture of Abraham Lincoln)

Page 32 (Ford's Theater)

Page 62 (Map of area around Ford's Theater)

Page 94 (picture of Samuel A. Mudd)

### **Part 2: Virtual Tour**

Go to the following website <https://www.fords.org/visit/virtual-tour/> and tour Ford's theater. Write down three observations of the theater.

### **Part 3: Comprehension Questions**

After reading the book, answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate piece of paper.

1. What different kinds of information are given by a diary entry and a newspaper article? Which do you think is a better historical source?
2. How might the sequence of events been changed if John Wilkes Booth had not broken his leg?

3. If you had been alive at the time of Lincoln's assassination, how do you think you would have felt? How would you have felt about John Wilkes Booth? How would you have felt about his end?
4. What other historical event reminds you of something that happened in the book? How are they the same and different?
5. Thinking back in the book, use your imagination to change one historical event that might have saved Abraham Lincoln's life.. What event would you have changed? Explain how that would have saved President Lincoln's life.

## **PART 5: Timeline of the Manhunt**

You will create a timeline of the 12 days of the assassination and manhunt. You will illustrate and describe the events of that day (ex. the events/actions could include what people in Washington did or John Wilkes Booth and his co-conspirators did).

- Make sure your timeline is completed on a 11 x 17 sheet of white paper.
- It must include the date of each event and an illustration to go with each event.
- The timeline illustrations must be colored.
- In a few **sentences** (under each date), you must describe the events of that day

All completed tasks need to be stapled to the back of the timeline and be turned in on the first day of school.