

Educator's Guide Supplement for Use with STORY FRAMES FOR TEACHING LITERACY

With Tips for Writing Personal Narratives
Tad Lincoln's Restless Wriggle: Pandemonium
and Patience in the President's House

by **Beth Anderson**

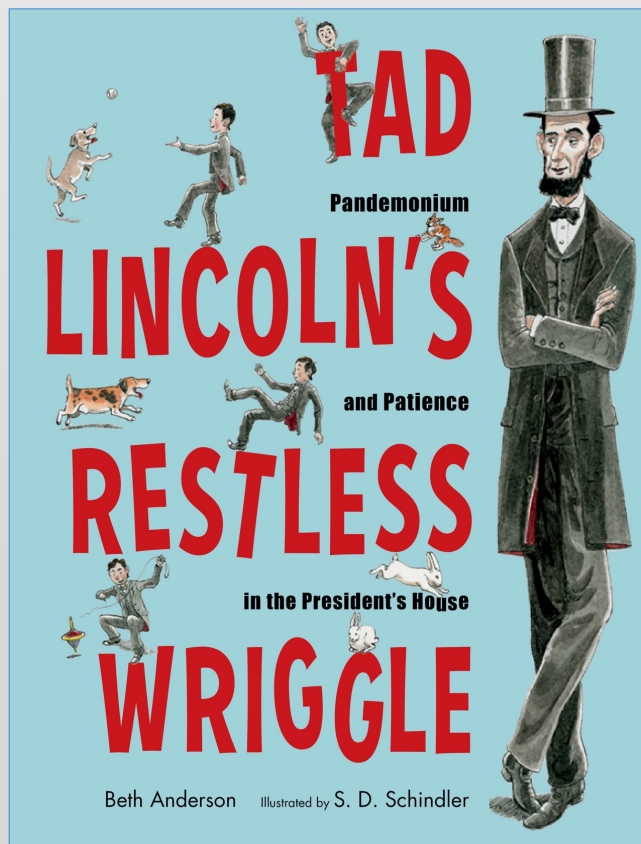
illustrated by **S.D. Schindler**

Guide created by Carolee Dean, M.S., CCC-SLP, CALT

www.wordtravelliteracy.com

ABOUT THE BOOK

Tad Lincoln's boisterous spirit was a joy to his father, President Abraham Lincoln, during the difficult years of the Civil War. Most other adults thought children should be seen and not heard – preferably not seen either, but the Lincolns had a different philosophy. "Let him run," said Lincoln as his son fled from his lessons. Tad had learning and speech challenges that made it hard for him to read and write, but he learned plenty from his father as he accompanied him on his presidential duties and spread joy to those who were suffering.




Classroom Activities

Grades 3-8

The narrative non-fiction picture book, *Tad Lincoln's Restless Wriggle* is an excellent resource to use with students of all ages for the following objectives:

- 1. Improve Understanding of Text Structure.** Talk to students about the plot structure found on the Plot Analysis page. Then ask them to retell the story to a peer or write a summary.
- 2. Connect to the Social Studies Curriculum.** The narrative explores what it was like living in the White House during the Civil War and contains an extensive Author's Note that will appeal to older readers. Ask students to find other books about the Civil War appropriate for their grade level.
- 3. Build Grit, Resilience, and Disability Awareness.** The story features a child with both speech/language and learning challenges and can be used to talk about resilience, determination, and acceptance of self and others as well as additional topics related to social-emotional development. Ask students to list their strengths and weaknesses.
- 4. Improving Vocabulary.** The author uses many action verbs to portray Tad's exuberant nature. Have students go through the book looking for action words.



Writing Personal Narratives
Using Narrative Non-Fiction Picture Books as
Inspiration for Telling Your Story
(Grades 3 and up)
By Carolee Dean, M.S., CCC-SLP, CALT
FREE PDF Includes:
Lesson Plan Activity Sheets Video Link

like *careen, launch, scurry, trot, scramble*. Have them find definitions for each word and practice conjugating the verb for various tenses (scurry, scurries, scurried, scurrying). Then use the verbs in a story or summary.

5. Promotes Ideas for Writing Personal Narratives. The book can be used to inspire students to write their own stories. After reading the book, ask students this question: **Have you or someone you know ever tried to find a small way that you could help have an impact on a big problem?** Problems might include homelessness, hunger, poverty, or protecting the environment.

For more suggestions on how to use picture books to encourage students to write personal narratives, see my [AUTHOR PANEL](#) video with Beth Anderson and other children's authors and download the free PDFs below from my website.

PDF for Parents: [Picture Books for Reminiscing](#)

PDF for Teachers: [Writing Personal Narratives: Using Narrative Nonfiction Picture Books as Inspiration for Telling Your Story](#)

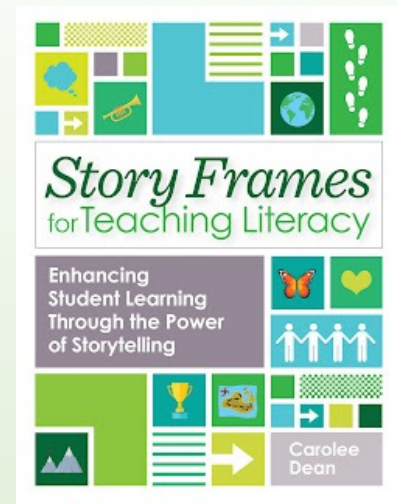
Happy reading,

Carolee Dean

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Plot Analysis

To find additional supports for summary writing, story retelling, vocabulary development, comprehension, and more check out, [Story Frames for Teaching Literacy](http://www.wordtravelliteracy.com) by Carolee Dean www.wordtravelliteracy.com



ORDINARY WORLD- Tad lived at the White House with his father, Abraham Lincoln, during the Civil War. He was a restless child who ran from his tutors and interrupted presidential meetings, but he also brought joy and comfort to the president during a very difficult time.

CALL TO ADVENTURE- His father invited him along on official business.

MENTORS, GUIDES, & GIFTS- Tad learned much from watching his father. He preferred learning from his father to learning from his tutor.

CROSSING- When Tad was 10, his parents took him to visit an army camp.

NEW WORLD- Tad slept in a tent and visited the troops. He was greatly affected by the experience, and when he returned home, he listened to the problems of the people who came to visit his father.

PROBLEMS, PRIZES, & PLANS- There were many problems related to the war, but the one that seemed to affect Lincoln the most was that the generals didn't have enough bandages and medicine for their soldiers. Tad planned to raise money to help the war effort.

MIDPOINT ATTEMPT- Tad charged a fee to people who wanted to visit his father at the White House until his father shut down his efforts. He also tried selling food, broken toys, and his parent's clothing until his father brought that to an end as well.

DOWNTIME- He finally settled for keeping his father company in his office. Late each night, his father carried him to bed.

CHASE & ESCAPE- Tad tried to find other ways to help. He gave coins to the homeless and freed a turkey that arrived shortly before the holidays.

DEATH & TRANSFORMATION- When Tad realized that the cook had recaptured the turkey and was going to cook it for Christmas dinner, he begged his father to intervene. Lincoln wrote a note saving the turkey's life.

CLIMAX/THE FINAL TEST- For Christmas, Tad received many books as presents. That's when he got his best idea yet. He packed up the books along with warm clothing and food and took a large box to the soldiers recovering in the army hospital.

REWARD- The soldiers are the ones who received the gifts in the end, though we can be certain that Tad benefitted as much as they did and that his generosity brought joy to his father as well.