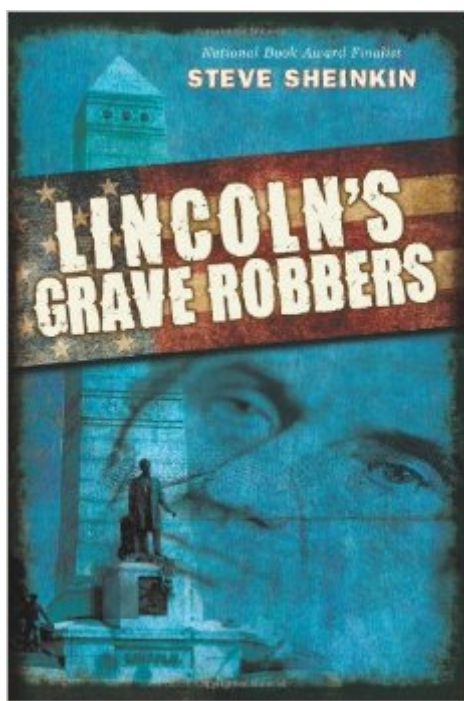


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# Lincoln's Grave Robbers



## Synopsis

A true crime thriller -- the first book for teens to tell the nearly unknown tale of the brazen attempt to steal Abraham Lincoln's body! The action begins in October of 1875, as Secret Service agents raid the Fulton, Illinois, workshop of master counterfeiter Ben Boyd. Soon after Boyd is hauled off to prison, members of his counterfeiting ring gather in the back room of a smoky Chicago saloon to discuss how to spring their ringleader. Their plan: grab Lincoln's body from its Springfield tomb, stash it in the sand dunes near Lake Michigan, and demand, as a ransom, the release of Ben Boyd --and \$200,000 in cash. From here, the action alternates between the conspirators, the Secret Service agents on their trail, and the undercover agent moving back and forth between the two groups. Along the way readers get glimpses into the inner workings of counterfeiting, grave robbing, detective work, and the early days of the Secret Service. The plot moves toward a wild climax as robbers and lawmen converge at Lincoln's tomb on election night: November 7, 1876.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 930L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press; 1 edition (January 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545405726

ISBN-13: 978-0545405720

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (74 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #44,404 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Law & Crime](#) #32 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s](#) #117 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States](#)

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

My daughter is totally into the US Presidents and Lincoln is one of her favorites (Mine too). This fictionalized story was so intriguing and the author has done an amazing job at transporting you not only into the story itself but beyond that into the time and era for which the story is set. The book is

intriguing and keeps you guessing to the outcome until the very end which is exactly what I want in a great story! What I loved about the story itself was the intricate plot and planning that takes place to pull such a crime off, as well as seeing the inner workings of the Secret Service (at least in how they worked supposedly back then). All-in-all this was a great book that will leave you on the edge of your seat, and you will find that you do not want to put the book down!

As much as I hate to admit it, I often find myself spacing out in my American History class. Don't get me wrong, I love history and America, but sometimes it's hard to listen to my teacher or read an unenthusiastic text book that tells you point blank what happened and when. I want to know the why, and that is exactly what "Lincoln's Grave Robbers" gave me. This book was riddled with complex back stories and surprising motives that drove the unbelievable story and made it a page turner. In simpler terms, it was exciting! I loved reading about the crazy plot of a man who lost his biggest asset in the counterfeiting business that plagued the US in the late 1800's. Plus, it was a story I didn't already know from my history class, so it kept me guessing right up till the end. Steve Sheinkin has a fantastic writing style, keeping the tone more conversational, a great contrast to the text books I'm used to reading. He switched focus between the main characters, giving different perspectives to explain the situations unfolding, and did so in a way that kept the story exciting. I felt like I was watching a T.V. show or movie, exceeding my expectations and eliminating my fear of a boring textbook like story. Sheinkin also threw in incredibly witty and hilarious comments when explaining things every once and while that had me laughing out loud. (That's right, lol!) I'd recommend this book to anyone looking for an easy read that keeps you interested the entire time. It's a piece of history that most people don't know about, but should. The story itself is funny, how the pieces fall into place is incredible, and it's all true! I asked myself when picking up "Lincoln's Grave Robbers", "Who thinks that thieving Abraham Lincoln's body is a good solution to any problem?" Well, you'll have to read the book, because it's just about as ridiculous as it sounds.

My 11 year old son found this book to me compelling and could not put the book down. Every summer we require our son to read one book a week and this one was read in 3 days. He thoroughly enjoyed it and is a fan of history. I am a Lincoln historian myself and found this book to be mostly accurate. There are a few issues but overall the book is well written and enjoyed by my son and I. Steve Sheinken did a superb job of capturing the characters in such a way that my son

could not put the book down. But more importantly it sparked a conversation between my son and I about the events. He spend long hours discussing the events and why the people did what they did. Nice job Steve.

Steve Sheinkin, a former history textbook author, has an ability to make history come alive. Using primary sources, and quotes from people involved in the attempted theft of President Lincoln's grave to free a counterfeit money engraver, he shows how the Secret Service agents were finally able to capture the crooks. What I really liked about this book was the use of primary sources and the inclusion of the quotes as this is an excellent way to show students how historical writing is done. This book would be most enjoyed by kids in the upper grades who love history like I do.

Sheinkin does it again. He creates a vivid picture of a time and place while telling a story that most people have probably never heard before. I know this isn't something I had ever heard about before and I've read a lot about Abraham Lincoln. What isn't to love here, I mean, there are counterfeiters, jail breaks, and undercover agents. What kid wouldn't want to hear about that? The icing on the cake is that the story is true. The sad part is how Lincoln's body was treated after the attempted robberies. Hiding the casket behind a bunch of lumber in a back room?! I had to admire the caretaker's efforts to protect the body when so few were willing to help him. With plenty of excitement and enough twists and turns to satisfy most readers, Sheinkin once again presents readers with a great read. Highly recommended.

I had no idea that counterfeiters tried to steal Lincoln's body! Even for readers who already know about this amazing bit of historical trivia, this book will hold your attention and probably teach you something. Plus, it's a Texas Lone Star book which generally means it's a great choice for readers grades 6-9.

The book was good visually. There were plenty of relevant pictures that really helped to understand the book. It accurately told the story of what happened. 3 stars though because you have to have a certain taste to enjoy the way it was written. At some points it seemed like you were reading an actual story, and then right before you know it, it switches to a more documentary type tone. It is like a show that has actual footage, and then a reenactment.

Bought this book for my granddaughter. She is in the Reading Bowl at school and this was one of the books on the list she had to read. She loved this book and read it several times and then loaned it to a classmate with a promise that she would return it. It now stays on her night table and she rereads it when she is between books

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