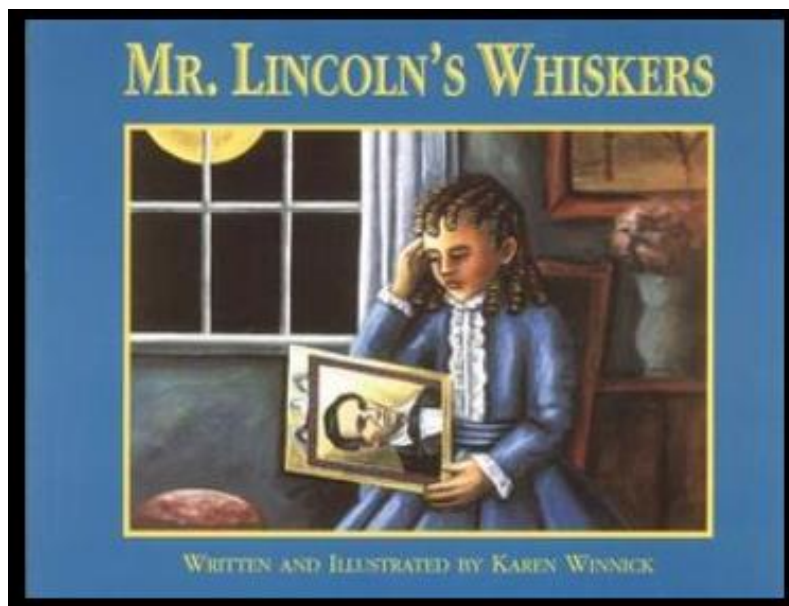


## Letter Writing

Years ago, before computers, cell phones, Face Time, or dial up phones, people communicated with one another with letters. It was exciting to find a letter in the mailbox. Who sent it? What was their message to me? Receiving a letter could be the best part of the day! Letters often included important information but could also be a story of recent experiences or even funny jokes.

One famous letter was written in 1860 by a young girl named Grace Bedell. After seeing Lincoln's presidential campaign posters, Grace thought that Mr. Lincoln would be more handsome if he had a beard. Ms. Bedell wrote to Abraham Lincoln and shared her opinion. With her written words, she persuaded him to grow a beard.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5H7PVG7b-aY>



You can read about this letter in this book, *Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers* by Karen Winnick.

*Dear Friend,*

*How are you today? What have you been up to this week?*

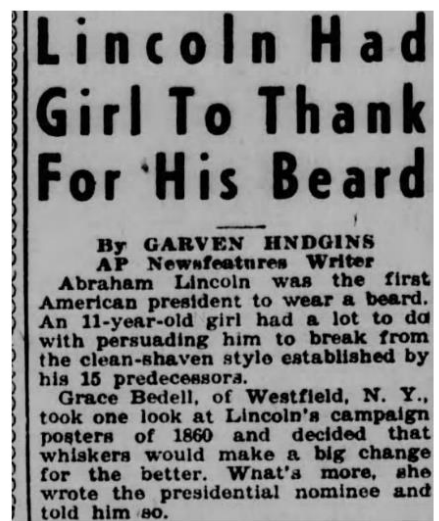
*Ohio is so beautiful this summer. I enjoy my walks each day with my puppy, Sammy. He is small and black with ears that flap when he trots. When we are out in the field he digs his nose in the tall grasses, then rolls around to rub his belly across the ground. We have lots of fun together.*

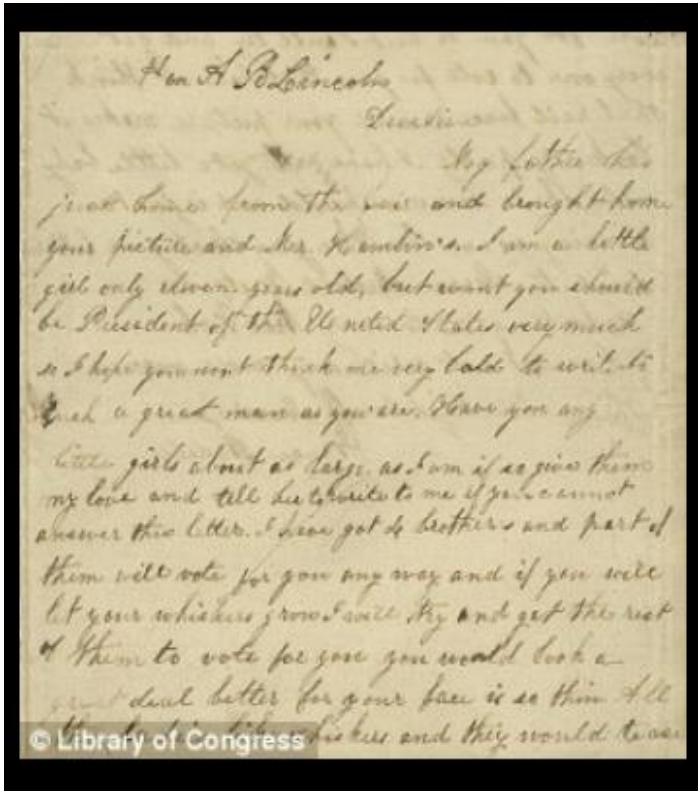
*What do you like to do on a warm, sunny day?*

*I hope to see you soon!*

*Best wishes,*

*Your Buddy*



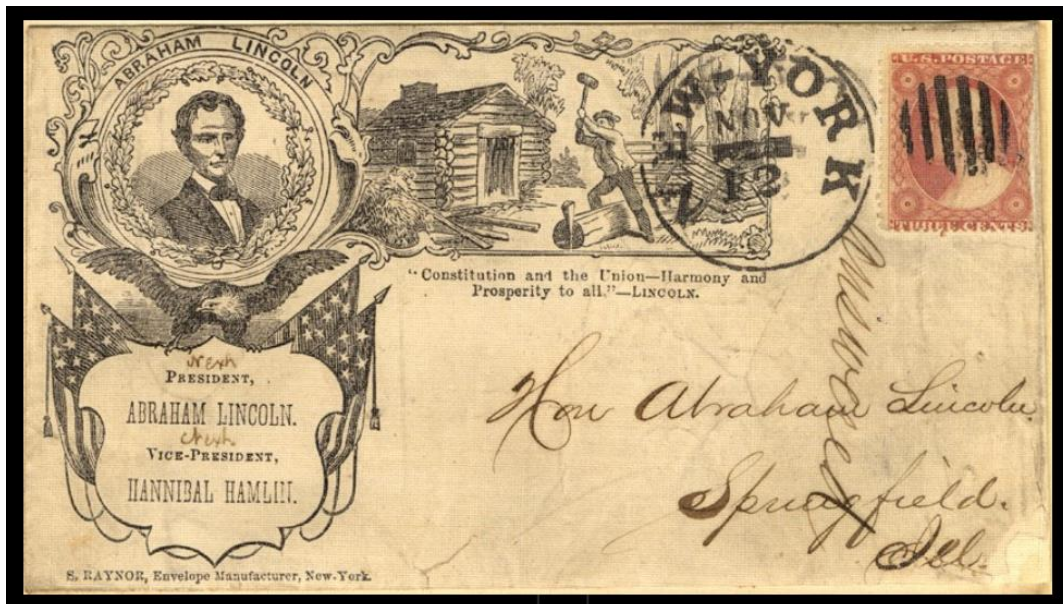


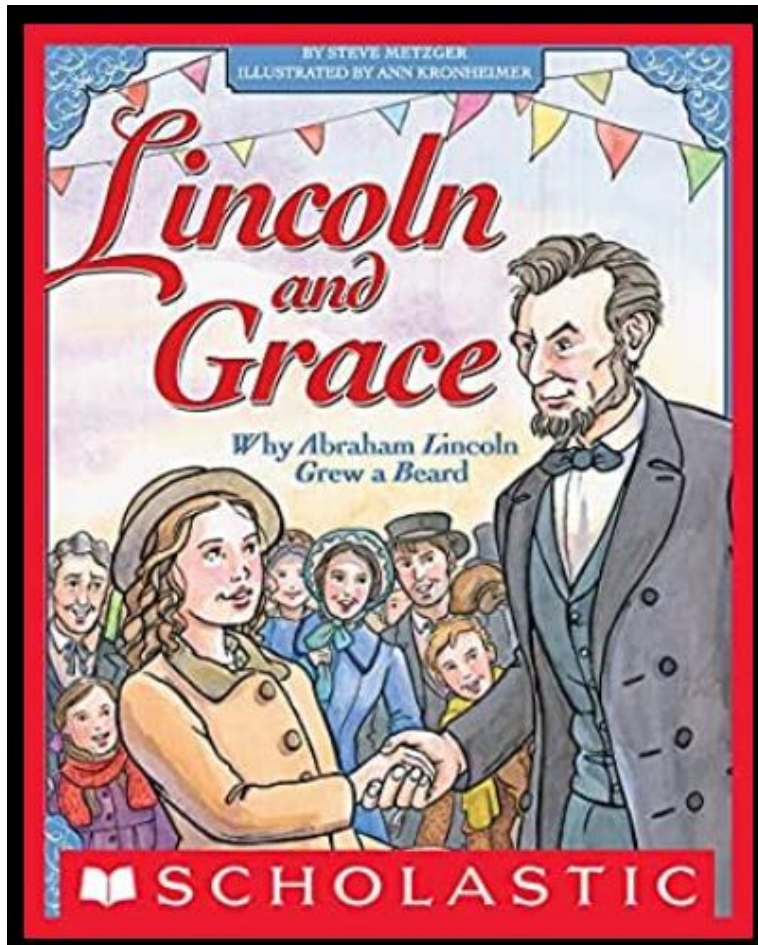
The Library of Congress, America's national library, still has the letter from Grace to Lincoln.



Here is the envelope in which Grace's letter was sent to the Honorable Abraham Lincoln. Notice the interesting print of Mr. Lincoln. What else do you see on this envelope?

- Log cabin
- Man chopping wood
- Flags
- Frames around the drawings
- Postage stamp
- Handwriting
- Date stamp





Read aloud of *Lincoln & Grace: Why Abraham Lincoln Grew A Beard* by Steve Metzger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAb1KN8pPdY>

To whom would you like to write a letter? Do you have a special friend or a relative with whom you would like to communicate? What will you tell him or her? What can you tell this person about your summer or the 2020 quarantine? Write them a letter, mail it, and ask them for a reply. Then watch your mailbox!