



Abraham Lincoln's Letter to his Son's Teacher

My son starts school today.

It is all going to be strange and new to him for a while and I wish you would treat him gently.

It is an adventure that might take him across continents.

An adventure that will probably include wars, tragedy and sorrow.

To live this life will require faith, love and courage.

So, dear Teacher, will you please take him by his hand and teach him that for every enemy, there is a friend.

He will have to know that all men are not just, that all men are not true.

**But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is a hero,
that for every crooked politician, there is a dedicated leader.**

In school, Teacher, it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat.

Teach him to learn how to gracefully lose, and enjoy winning when he does win.

Teach him to be gentle with people.

Steer him away from envy if you can and teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

Teach him if you can the wonders of books,

but also give time to ponder the extreme mystery of birds in the sky,

bees in the sun and flowers on a green hill.

Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are

wrong.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone else is doing it.

Teach him to listen to everyone,

but teach him also to filter all that he hears on a screen of truth

and take only the good that comes through.

Teach him never to put a price tag on his heart and soul.

Let him have the patience to be brave.

Teach him to have faith in himself,

because then he will always have faith in mankind.

See what best you can do.

He is such a nice little boy, and he is my son.

Abraham Lincoln
(Adapted)