



## Discussion Questions

- This play uses multiple perspectives to tell about the events of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. What does this help us to understand about the assassination?
- The timeline of the play is not chronological, but rather moves between time based on the character and their recollection of the assassination. Putting together the timeline chronologically, what do you learn about the assassination?
- Why might the playwright have constructed the play this way? What does a non-chronological story help us to understand about the assassination? About history generally?
- The playwright Richard Helleesen, is alive today and was not alive at the time of the assassination. What kinds of primary sources could he have used to give the characters their voice?
- How is the Lincoln assassination a turning point in our country's history? Are there moments in the play that support your response?
- Why is the show called *One Destiny*? What does this phrase mean to our country and our history?
- Harry Hawk, Harry Ford and many of the characters relive a trauma as they remember the events of the Lincoln assassination. How might the trauma have affected their recollection of the events? What can we learn from this?
- What perspectives or recollections about the Lincoln assassination are missing from this play? Who might have been there that we do not hear from? Why might that be?
- How can we uncover or discover those missing voices?
- What are some of the lasting effects of the Lincoln assassination? What connections can you make to today?
- Lincoln loved the theatre. At the theatre he could relax and escape from the pressures of the Civil War. What do you do to relax and escape from the pressures in your life? How are the things you do alike or different from what Lincoln found relaxing more than 150 years ago?
- How would you describe Lincoln's legacy? In what ways can you be like Lincoln, or would you want to be different from him?
- Lincoln worked with others to end legal slavery in our country, though in many places people are still forced to work without pay. What can you do to help make your school, community or our country more equitable?

OR

Lincoln worked with others to end slavery in our country because he believed that all people had the "right to rise," or the right to pursue and fulfill their full potential. What can you do to help make your school, community or our country more equitable, and to support peoples' right to rise today?

- If you could go back in time, what would you do to change history? Have you ever wished that you could go back in time and change events that happened?

### Your Turn

Work with a partner to write a brief scene based on an event that happened in your school recently. It could be anything – going through the lunch line in the cafeteria, playing a game at recess, going on a field trip, passing a friend in the hall, etc. How did you decide what characters to include? How did you decide what their lines would be? Now perform your scene for the class. It's show time!

