

# Honesty Story

## SIX PENNIES



Before he became a lawyer, Abraham Lincoln worked as a store clerk. He was dependable and honest, and the owner of the store trusted him to run it. The customers in the store knew Abe would not lie about anything he sold.

One day, a lady came into the store. She bought what she needed and left. When Abe closed shop for the night, he found he had six extra cents. He looked at his sales for the day and realized he had given the lady the wrong amount of change. Those six cents belonged to her!

Abe looked at the six pennies. It wasn't very much money. Besides, it was late at night, and the lady lived three miles away. But he knew what he should do.

Abe finished closing up and walked three miles to the lady's house. The lady was shocked when she opened the door. "Abe Lincoln, what are you doing all the way out here?" she asked.

"This belongs to you," Abe answered as he gave her the money. "I accidentally gave you the wrong change today, so I came out here to make it right."

"You came all the way out here to bring me six cents?!" she exclaimed. "Thank you!"

Another day, Abe was reading a book when a lady came to buy tea. He measured it out for her and then went back to his book. He later noticed the weights on the scale were wrong and he had not given her enough tea.



He quickly measured out the rest of the tea, closed the shop, and went to the lady's house to give her the rest of her tea. Word of Abe's truthfulness spread throughout the town.

When the owner of the store died, he owed a lot of money. The two men who should have paid the debt ran away, leaving Abe the responsibility.

Technically, Abe did not have to pay the debts, but he decided a good name was important to keep, so he began working in order to pay off the money.

The people of the town gave him extra jobs gathering crops, cutting wood, and grinding wheat at a mill so that he could earn money.

It took Abe 17 years to pay off the debt, but he never gave up. Abe's truthfulness earned him the nickname, "Honest Abe."