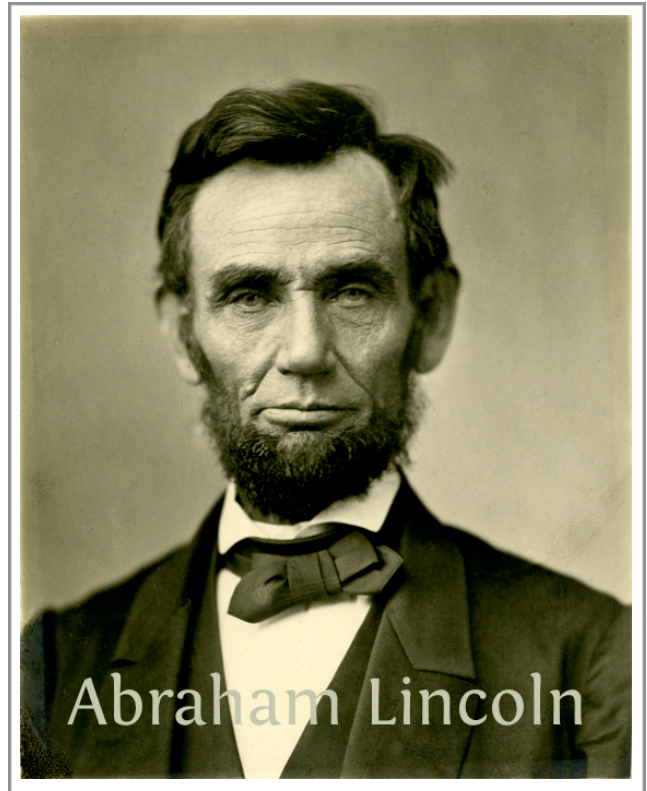


## B is for Bear

### Assignment 12

- Complete Lesson 12 in your B is for Bear textbook, volume 1.
- Complete Lesson 12 of your handwriting book.
- Memorize stanza 2 of Robert Frost's "Gathering Leaves." Parents may review just a couple of things that we went over in class:
- We reviewed the *tone* of this poem; it is humorous.
- In a *simile* Robert Frost compares the noise that he makes raking and bagging leaves to skittish creatures—the rabbit and deer. A simile is a comparison using the word *like* and *as*. Teachers may ask in what way gathering leaves is like rabbits and deer running away. (When they are startled, rabbit and deer make a great rustling.)
- Robert Frost (1874–1963) is one of America's most beloved 20th-century poets. Although he was born in California, he moved to New England and it is this geographical region that forms the basis of much of the imagery of his work. Frost moved to England in 1912 and while living there his first two volumes of poetry were written: *A Boy's Will* (1913) and *North of Boston* (1914). Two of his famous poems "The Pasture" and "Mending Wall" were published in the second work. One hallmark characteristic of Robert Frost is that when he is talking about something, such as a wall or cleaning a pasture spring, he really means something else. The second poem "Mending Wall" is a sort of allegory for the "walls" between people, which the speaker of the poem questions the necessity of. "The Pasture" is not included in the table of contents of *North of Boston*, but rather *introduces* the book as a sort of invitation for the reader to participate with Frost in the common beauties of life and poetry that are all a part of *North of Boston*.



#### THE PASTURE

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring;  
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away

(And wait to watch the water clear, I may):  
I sha'n't be gone long.—You come too.  
I'm going out to fetch the little calf  
That's standing by the mother. It's so young,  
It totters when she licks it with her tongue.  
I sha'n't be gone long.—You come too.

1. What sort of things is the speaker in Robert Frost's poem asking the reader to do?  
*The speaker is inviting the reader to come along to watch and participate with him in common farm activities, such as cleaning a spring from which cows drink and fetching a young calf.*
2. In what way is tending to the chores of the farm like writing and reading poetry?  
*Both farm life and poetry are rooted in the common, everyday things of life. We often think of poetry as being merely about the "heavens" (deep or spiritual things) when it is also about the earth (common things). Frost is trying to connect writing and reading poetry to doing the ordinary things of life. Yes, poetry often delves deeper into our feelings and thoughts about life, but at the core, it is closely connected to ordinary life, which is poetry's "spring."*
3. Does the language that Robert Frost use unusual for a poem?  
*Although it has meter and rhyme, Robert Frost uses language that sounds more like a conversation than poetry. He does this intentionally, of course, as he wants to connect poetry to the ordinary things of life.*