Summary: When Abraham Lincoln overhears a classroom of kids say “history is boring,” he decides to teach them a lesson. Lincoln escapes from 1860—-to pursue his dream of becoming a professional wrestler! Now siblings Doc and Abby have to convince Lincoln to go back to Springfield, Illinois, and accept the presidency…before everything spins out of control!

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Ms. Maybee surprised by what Abby reads in the history textbook about Abraham Lincoln? How does what Abby reads confirm what the students already feel about history?
2. How do Doc, Abby, and their classmates “break” history?
3. How do Abby and Doc’s feelings about Abraham Lincoln change as they get to know him?
4. What does Abby and Doc’s dad teach them about Lincoln’s contributions to our country’s history?
5. What is Doc and Abby’s plan to fix history and get Lincoln back to work? What obstacles do they face?
6. How does Abe get the idea to become a pro wrestler? If he does become a wrestler, what effect will it have on history?
7. How do Abby and Doc think Mr. Biddle can help them fix history? Is this successful?
8. What other facts did you learn about Abraham Lincoln from the author’s historical note?
9. If you had a cardboard box time machine, who would you want to come out of it?

Further Resources:

1. Interview with author Steve Sheinkin about writing the book: https://dar.to/2KF0sCS

Activities

1. Find the biggest box you can, gather art supplies, and make your own cardboard box time machine.
2. Invent a wrestler name for yourself. Would you be Gigantic Phil, or Leslie “The Lion” Smith? Be creative!
3. Pick two people from history that would have the most exciting wrestling match. Make a wrestling poster like the one on page 88 with your favorite mashup!