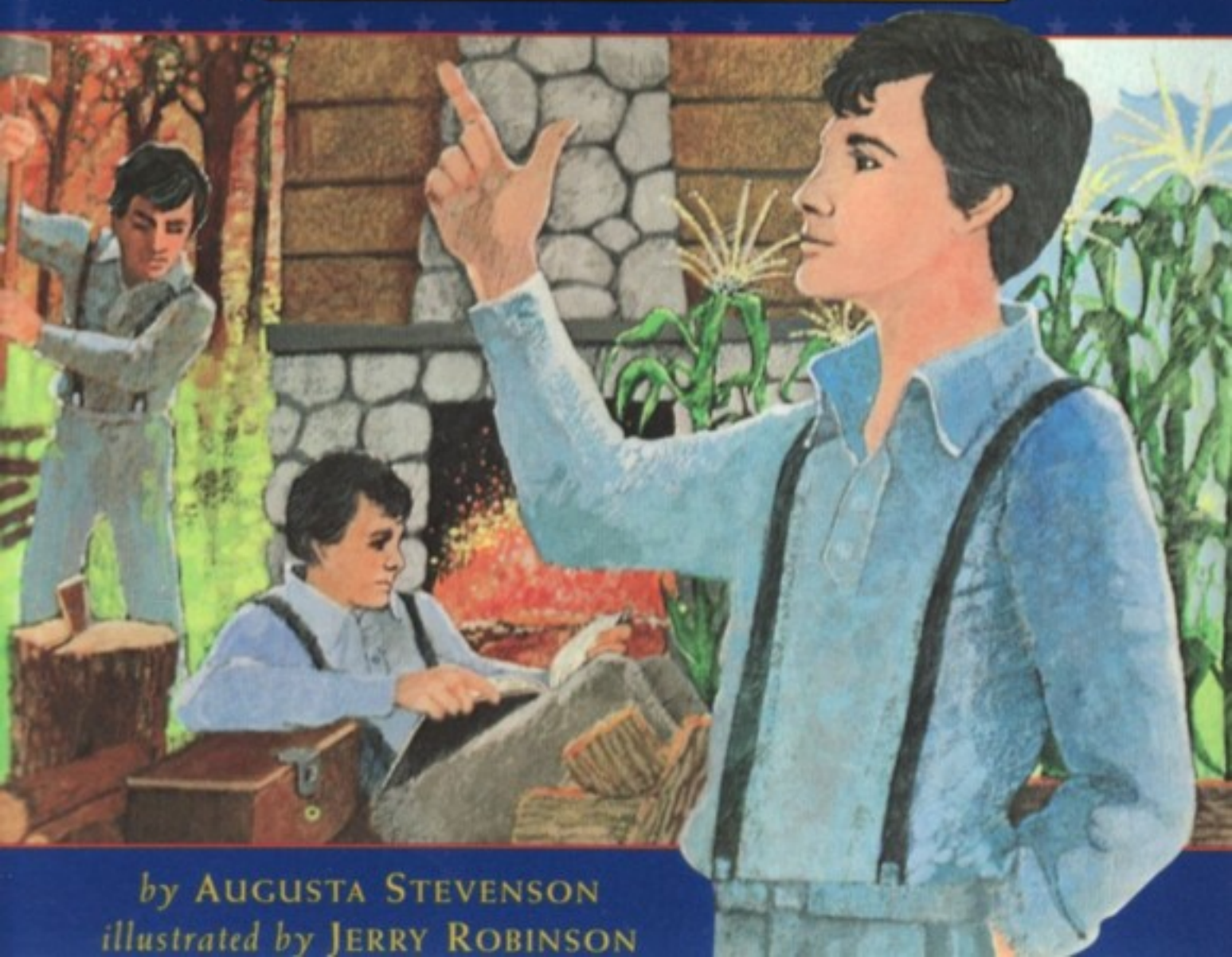


Childhood of Famous Americans



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Great Emancipator



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Abe's First Toy

THERE WAS once a little boy who lived in a little cabin on a little farm in a little clearing on a little creek. Now this little creek had a little name—*Knob*. But the boy had a big name—*Abraham*.

Little Knob Creek was in the great big state of Kentucky. Abraham was born February 12, 1809, on another farm about ten miles away. This farm was not on Knob Creek, but it was in the great big state of Kentucky.

Little Abraham was in the great big family of Lincolns. There were his father and mother and older sister, Sarah. He lived with them, of course. Then there were many aunts and uncles.

There were more cousins than he could count. He didn't see any of these relatives very often, because they lived too far away.

Nobody in the Lincoln family called Abraham by his big name. "Abraham is too long," everyone agreed. "Abe is better."

So Abe he was, to his family and his friends. The name stayed with him, even when he became a man and as long as he lived.

Abe liked his home on Knob Creek. But sometimes he wished that the Lincoln farm was not so far from other farms. The nearest neighbors lived miles away in other clearings in the forest. They lived too far away for him to play with any of their children.

Sarah played with Abe when she had time, but she liked to play with dolls. Abe couldn't help wishing that he had a brother or some other boy to play with. A boy would like to do the things that he liked to do.

SARAH'S DOLL

One morning Abe and Sarah were playing outdoors. Before long Sarah ran into the cabin, crying. "Oh, Mother!" she said. "Abe won't play with me."

Mrs. Lincoln was surprised. "What is the matter?" she asked. "Have you children been quarreling?"

"No, Mother, we didn't quarrel, but Abe wouldn't play with my doll. It's a new doll, too, and it's made from the largest corncob Father could find."

"That's true," said Mr. Lincoln. "It was the largest one in the field."

"It is a fine doll, Sarah," said Mother. "Why doesn't Abe like it?"

"I don't know," said Sarah. "He said he wouldn't play girl games any more."

"Well! Well!" said Mother. "I am surprised to hear that Abe won't play with a doll."