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In doing this assignment, I quickly found that there was a stark difference between the Philip Cusick’s book A Passion for Learning and the Web resources dealing with the education of Abraham Lincoln. From the book, the chapter on Lincoln was relatively short, but full of in depth analysis of the foundation of Lincoln’s education. On the other hand, the Web resources had a lot of information, if not too much, scattered around. It was difficult to find detailed information on the Web. What I did find echoed Cusick’s book. All of the information centered around the theme of his book that “education is an interior affair, worked for, achieved and capitalized upon by oneself and for one’s own purposes (Cusick, 1). Lincoln’s education is a great example of this. He went from “a poor child scratching out letters by firelight on a coal shovel” (Cusick, 33) to one of the greatest presidents America has ever seen. The book and the Web resources proved that this was from perseverance. This perseverance allowed him to achieve an education and overcome many obstacle and setbacks in his life.

Much of what I learned about Lincoln’s education came from the Lincoln Research Site, more specifically his biography section. In this, I learned that Lincoln’s first education setback was being born into an environment where education was not always a priority. He was born to uneducated parents. “Thomas Lincoln was an uneducated carpenter and a farmer. Nancy Lincoln had little or no schooling and could not write” (Lincoln Research Site, Biography). Much of the time, work was more important to education. Even through this, Lincoln carved out an education. This Website does well to describe a quote taken from Cuskick’s book. “I have attended to the matter of his being uneducated, and concluded that he was merely unschooled” (Cusick 33). Throughout his early childhood and family moves, he got some formal training through different teachers. But this Websites reveals that his love of reading was the most influence aspect in his education. In 1821, “Abraham began borrowing books from neighbors. He read *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Aesop's Fables*, *Arabian Nights*, and *Robinson Crusoe*. (Lincoln Research Site, Biography) From there, the Website continued to show the importance of books in his life. In 1825, Abraham borrowed a book titled *Life of Washington* by Parson Mason Weems. When the book got soaked with rain, he worked off its worth for his neighbor (Josiah Crawford) from whom he had borrowed it. This was the very first book Abraham ever personally owned” (Lincoln Research Site, Biography). This interest in books shows his self-directed education as reflected by Cusick. “Lincoln had a theory of education that was reflected in his efforts. If he wanted to learn something-grammar, mathematics and later law-he simply borrowed or bought books and went at it (Cusick, 34). Lincoln overcame his lack of formal schooling and become very educated through his perseverance. This perseverance carried on throughout his career.

A lot of information in the Web resources demonstrate this perseverance. One example of this can be taken from the Abraham Lincoln Research Site. This site chronicles some of his setbacks:

He failed as a businessman - as a storekeeper.

He failed as a farmer - he despised this work. He failed in his first attempt to obtain political office. When elected to the legislature he failed when he sought the office of speaker. He failed in his first attempt to go to Congress. He failed when he sought the appointment to the United States Land Office. He failed when he ran for the United States Senate. He failed when friends sought for him the nomination for the vice-presidency in 1856 (Abraham Lincoln’s Failures and a Striking Example of his Humanness, Lincoln Research Site).

This Website then answers these setbacks with Lincoln’s achievements. This is very symbolic of his education. Even though he had many setbacks, Lincoln worked harder and triumphed.