



Word Parts.2



Just a Coincidence?

Since 1840, every American president elected in the twentieth year – Harrison 1840, Lincoln 1860, McKinley 1900, Harding 1920, Roosevelt 1940, and Kennedy 1960 – has died in office. Is this, as people often say, “just a coincidence”?

There are very strong parallels between the careers of Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy. Lincoln was first elected to Congress in 1846, Kennedy in 1946. Both men had been in the armed forces. Each worked for the cause of civil rights. Both presidents were assassinated. Lincoln was killed by a man born in 1839 and Kennedy by one born in 1939. Both assassins were Southerners who were killed before they could be tried.

The assassinations both occurred on Fridays, with the wives of the presidents present. Lincoln had a secretary named Kennedy who told him not to go to the theatre. President Kennedy’s secretary, a Mrs. Lincoln, warned him against visiting Dallas, where he was shot.

Southerners named Johnson (Andrew, born in 1808 and Lyndon, born in 1908) succeeded both Lincoln and Kennedy.

With more digging, no doubt, more of these similarities could be found. Do people find coincidences where they look for them? Perhaps. At any rate, if John Kennedy had been aware of the similar details of Abraham Lincoln’s life, he might have listened to his secretary and cancelled his fateful Dallas trip.

**MAIN
IDEA**

Mark the *main idea* → M

Mark the statement that is *too broad* → B

Mark the statement that is *too narrow* → N

There are amazing similarities in the details of the lives of many American presidents.

The circumstances of Lincoln’s and Kennedy’s deaths were very similar.

There are many striking parallels in the histories of Kennedy and Lincoln.

Directions: Circle the best response to the questions below.

**SUBJECT
MATTER**

A. The best alternate title for this passage would be:

1. American Presidents.
2. The Lincoln and Kennedy Assassinations.
3. The Careers of Lincoln and Kennedy.
4. Lincoln and Kennedy: Striking Similarities.

**SUPPORTING
DETAILS**

B. The secretaries of both Lincoln and Kennedy:

1. saw the assassinations.
2. were named Johnson.
3. advised them not to go to the places where they were killed.
4. were born in years ending in “39.”

CONCLUSION

C. The writer seems to think that coincidences:

1. definitely have hidden meanings.
2. may or may not occur simply by chance.
3. are always found wherever people look for them.
4. do not occur very often.

**CLARIFYING
DEVICES**

D. The first paragraph catches the reader’s attention with a:

1. surprising fact.
2. vivid adjective.
3. first-hand story.
4. broad generalization.

**VOCABULARY
In
CONTEXT**

E. As used in this passage, succeeded is closest in meaning to:

1. achieved
2. came before.
3. broke away from.
4. came after.