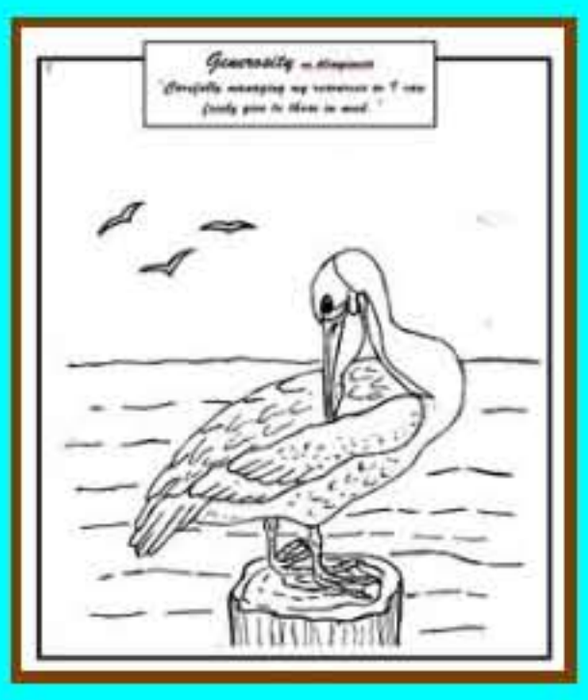

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GENEROSITY IN HISTORY

It had been a tiring day for President Abraham Lincoln. He hadn't even stopped to eat lunch when another visitor entered his office. Abe greeted the visitor, a friend of his, with a friendly smile.
Did you spot the "I Will"? Abe gave freely of his time and talents, even though he was tired and hungry.

As the gentlemen approached Abe's desk, a ragged young girl ran into the office, stopping between him and the President. "Please, sir," she cried with many tears, "I've been trying to get permission to see you but I've been cast out many times. You are my only hope! My brother has been condemned to death!"
"Silence, my child," Abe said quietly. "State your case calmly."

"My brother and I are foreigners, without a place or family. My brother joined the Union army, fell in with a bad crowd, and they persuaded him to desert. He has been captured, charged with treason and sentenced to be shot," she said with deep sobs. Abe looked on with compassion, and requested that some refreshments be brought for the shaken young lady.
Did you catch the "I Will"? Abe shared what he had with others.

Understanding that this poverty stricken child now faced losing the only family and comfort she had, pictures of Abe's youth went through his mind as he recalled the poverty of his early years. He remembered how it felt to be helplessly poor, and his heart went out to the young lady. "My dear girl," he consoled, "you seem to be honest and you have shown yourself to be brave and persistent. I will pardon your brother."
Did you catch the "I Will"? Abe praised the good he saw in others.

At this, the girl's eyes lit up with new-found hope, shining with an expression of sheer gratitude. Abe smiled and wished her farewell, issuing the fortunate brother's pardon as she left. He knew the look on her beaming face was all the thanks she could afford, but for Abraham Lincoln, it was more than enough.
Did you spot the "I Will"? Abe did not expect anything in return for his generosity.

--written by Kelly Sorge; concept by: **Character First**