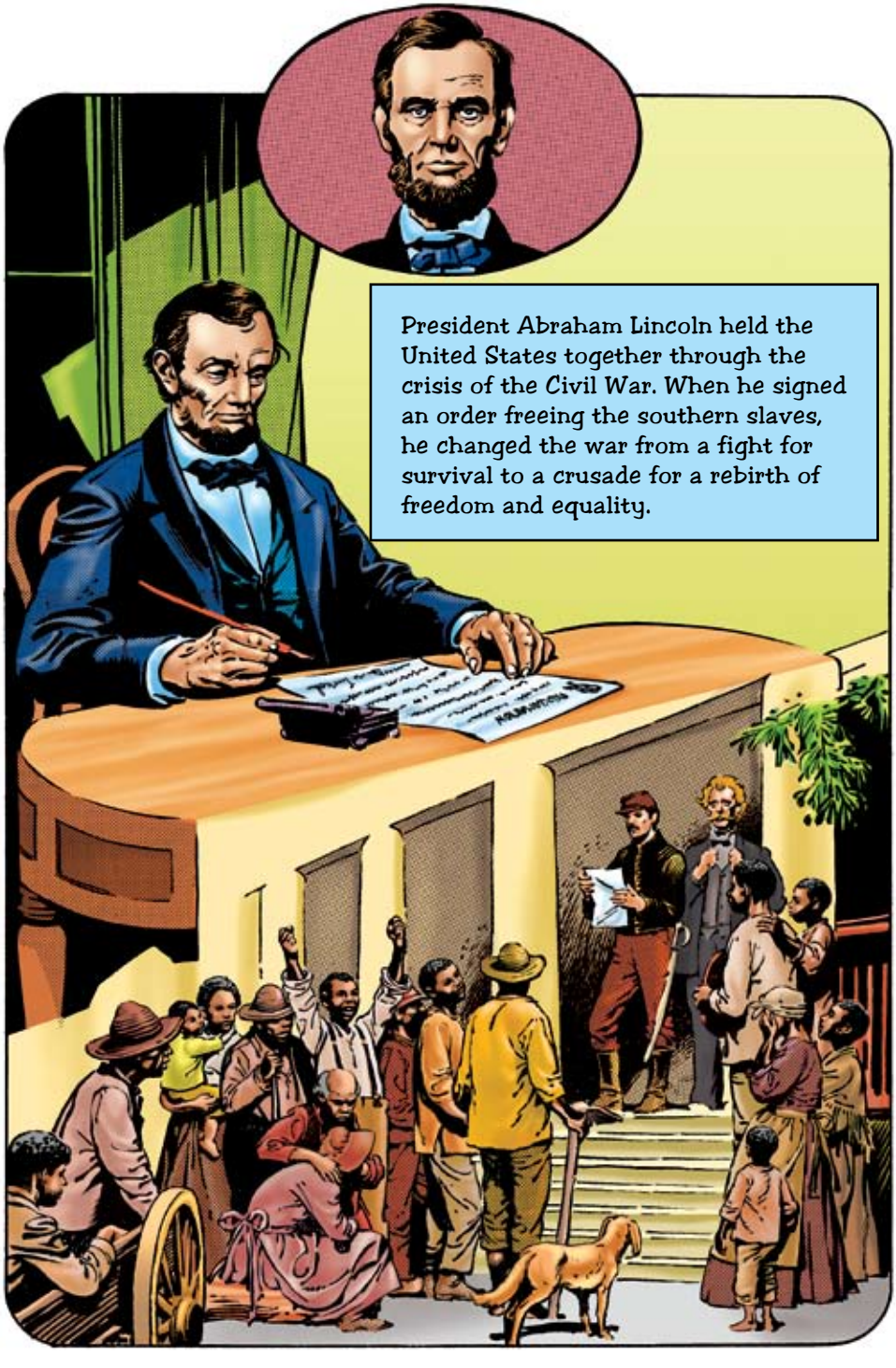
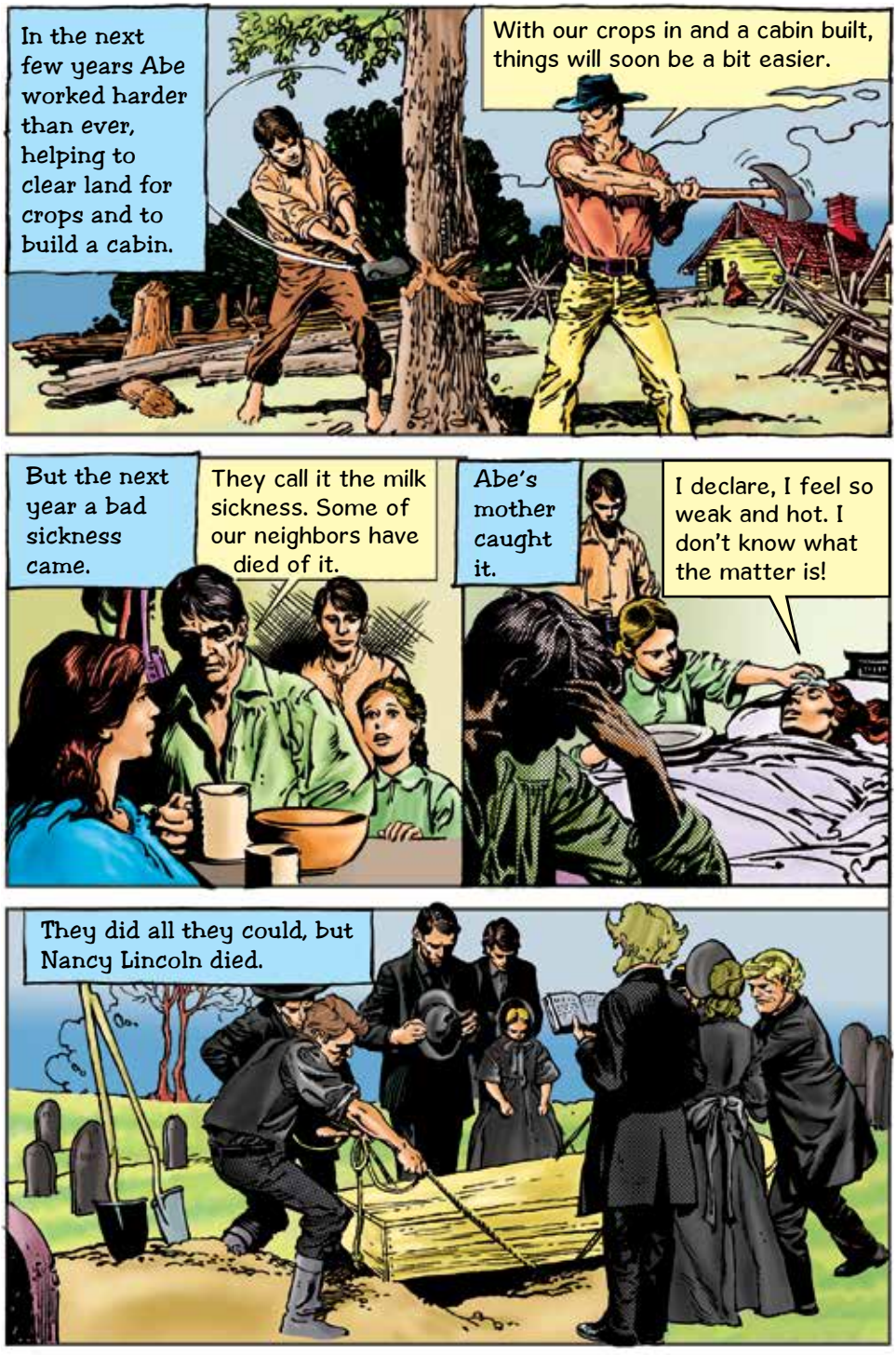

President Abraham Lincoln held the United States together through the crisis of the Civil War. When he signed an order freeing the southern slaves, he changed the war from a fight for survival to a crusade for a rebirth of freedom and equality.

It was February 12, 1809, in Kentucky.
It's all right, Dennis. Come in!
Come and see your new baby cousin!
What are you going to name him, Cousin Nancy?
Abraham, after his grandpa. Abraham Lincoln.
Gosh! He's so little!
Don't worry, Dennis, someday he'll be a big man.

Abe did grow. In a few years he was planting corn ...
... and guiding a plow horse ...
... and gathering wood.
Sometimes he and his sister went to school.
We're lucky there's a school. Lots of people never learn readin' and writin'.
You're smart! You're learning it quick!
The only book the Lincoln's owned was the Bible. He read every word.


In the next few years Abe worked harder than ever, helping to clear land for crops and to build a cabin.
With our crops in and a cabin built, things will soon be a bit easier.
But the next year a bad sickness came.
They call it the milk sickness. Some of our neighbors have died of it.
Abe's mother caught it.
I declare, I feel so weak and hot. I don't know what the matter is!
They did all they could, but Nancy Lincoln died.

Sally tried to take her mother's place.
We're out of candles, and I don't know how to make them. We're out of soap, and I don't know how to make soap, so everything's dirty ...
Oh, Abe!
You're doing your best ... you're only a little girl! The worst thing is just missing our mother!
One day Tom Lincoln rode away.
Did Pa say where he was going?
Not a word.
Pa's been gone for days! Do you think anything bad has happened?
I don't know. There are lots of dangers for a lone rider in the forest.