

A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman

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ABOUT THE STORY

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery, but she escaped and went North. Not content simply to live in freedom, she returned to the South again and again to guide other slaves along the Underground Railroad to the North and freedom. She made nineteen trips in all, and led three hundred people to a new life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David A. Adler grew up in a large family and got his start in storytelling by making up tales for his brothers and sisters. He received his M.B.A. from New York University and taught math to children for several years. He has written more than a hundred books, including picture book biographies of such notables as George Washington, Rosa Parks, and Harriet Tubman (all Live Oak Readalongs).

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Samuel Byrd has been an artist since childhood. He studied art at the Philadelphia College of Art and has exhibited his work all over the country. He is the illustrator of several picture books, including *A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman*, *A Picture Book of Rosa Parks*, and *A Picture Book of George Washington*.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever heard of the Underground Railroad. Explain that it was not a real railroad but a series of secret routes from the southern U.S. to the North that were used by enslaved people to reach states where they could be free. Tell children that the book they will read is about a woman who led many people to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "How was Harriet treated as a slave?"
- "What did Harriet's husband say when she asked him to run away with her?"
- "What disguises did Harriet use on the Underground Railroad?"
- "How did Harriet help people after the Civil War?"
- "How do you think Harriet felt about freedom?" (*Draw Conclusions*)
- "Why do you think Harriet was willing to risk her life to help others get to freedom?" (*Analyze*)

Vocabulary

Write these words that have to do with slavery on the chalkboard. Have children write them in alphabetical order and use a dictionary to write meanings for each word. Then ask them to use three of the words in a short paragraph about slavery.

plantation abolitionist rebellion patrollers amendment

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Social Studies: Mapping the Underground Railroad

Divide children into small groups, and provide each group with a map of the United States in 1860. Have children use encyclopedias or other reference books to find one route on the Underground Railroad. Children can mark the route on their map. Collect the maps and compare the different routes groups found. Then display the maps in the classroom.

Math: How Far Did She Walk?

Using a map with a scale of miles, have children find out approximately how far Harriet Tubman might have walked during her time on the Underground Railroad. Have children determine about how far it is from Maryland to New York State. Then remind them that Harriet Tubman made nineteen trips, and ask them to multiply the miles in the trip by 19. The product will be the total number of miles Harriet Tubman might have walked during that time.

Language Arts: Harriet Tubman Award Speech

Although Abraham Lincoln died before the end of the Civil War, if he had lived he might have given Harriet Tubman an award for her help and her courage. Ask children to work in pairs to write a speech that President Lincoln might have given while presenting Harriet Tubman with a Congressional Medal of Honor. Volunteers can read their speeches aloud when they have finished.

Social Studies: Harriet Tubman Timeline

Have students work in pairs to make a timeline of Harriet Tubman's life, from 1820 to 1913. For each date that they mark on the timeline with an important event from Harriet's life, have them include another event from American history. Hang completed timelines around the classroom.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

The Freedom Center

Send children to the website for the Underground Railroad Freedom Center at <http://www.freedomcenter.org/>. Ask them to find three facts about the Underground Railroad and write them down. Children can share the information they find with the rest of the class.