

Bookfolio for Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad

Author: [Ann Petry](#)

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Recommended for: [Grades 4-6](#)

Classification: Nonfiction

Genre: [Biography](#)

MultiCulture: African American

Story Summary: Harriet Tubman was born in the slave quarters of a Tidewater plantation in Maryland. She grew to be a shy but clever girl whose parents hoped that she might learn a trade so that she would not have to be a field hand. She was sent first to a weaver and then to be a child's nurse, but she was cruelly treated by people in both circumstances.

Harriet heard the stories about the slaves' uprisings and the Underground Railroad and decided that freedom would be her cause. With her unusual physical strength, her ability to move through the woods without making a sound, and her knowledge of nutritional plants, she planned her escape. Her brothers were supposed to escape with her but were afraid to go. Her husband, a free man himself, forbade her to try, but she went. She succeeded in reaching Philadelphia with the aid of the Underground Railroad. This escape was just the beginning of many escapes. Harriet became the legendary "Moses" and helped over three hundred slaves, including most of her family, to escape from Maryland to the northern United States and to Canada through the Underground Railroad. During the Civil War, she worked as a nurse, a scout, and a spy.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 9, "The Patchwork Quilt," pages 79-101.

**The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:
R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing**

Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad - Independent Activities	Skills
1. Illustrations of History (Creating a plan for illustrations)	D , W
2. Historical Background (Giving a book talk)	R , S
3. Harriet's Song (Writing about song's meaning)	W
4. Plantation Life (Drawing a picture)	D
5. I Was There (Writing a speech)	S , W
6. The Abolitionists (Writing a report)	R , S , W
Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad - Group Activities	Skills
1. An Interview (Conducting an interview)	S
2. A Time Line of Human Experience (Making a time line)	D , R , W
3. John Brown (Writing a report)	R , S , W
4. In the Words of a Poet (Discussing a poem)	S
5. Slavery (Researching a topic)	R , S
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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