

A Hero in Disguise

by Kate Paixão



A young woman wearing a big hat walked down the road carrying chickens. When she recognized a man coming toward her, she pulled a string tied to one chicken's leg. The chickens started squawking. Because of the noise, the man avoided her.

The woman was named Harriet Tubman. She was wearing a disguise. In fact, Harriet was an African American woman who was an escaped slave. The man who avoided her was a slaveholder who had once owned her. If he

had recognized her, he would have tried to capture her again.

Two hundred years ago, many African Americans were held as slaves. Most slaves were in the southern United States. Tubman helped the slaves escape to the North and on to Canada. Many other people also helped. They hid escaping slaves in houses and churches along the way. The group of people who worked to help slaves escape by using different places and secret routes was known as the Underground Railroad.

Facing danger, Harriet Tubman showed courage every day. Slaveholders knew who she was, and the police wanted to arrest her, but she kept on helping slaves to escape. Today, Harriet Tubman is remembered as a brave leader who made the world a better place.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Who was Harriet Tubman?

- A. a chicken farmer
- B. a slaveholder
- C. an escaped slave

2. What caused the slaveholder to avoid Harriet when he was walking toward her on the road?

- A. the fear of being recognized
- B. the size of Harriet's hat
- C. the noise of her chickens squawking

3. "Tubman helped the slaves escape to the North and on to Canada. Many other people also helped. They hid escaping slaves in houses and churches along the way. The group of people who worked to help slaves escape by using different places and secret routes was known as the Underground Railroad."

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. Without Harriet Tubman, no slaves would have escaped.
- B. The Underground Railroad helped slaves get to the North safely.
- C. Harriet Tubman was braver than other escaped slaves.

4. What did Harriet Tubman most likely have in common with the people who were part of the Underground Railroad?

- A. They were all escaped slaves.
- B. They were all very brave.
- C. They were all wearing disguises.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Harriet Tubman was a brave leader who helped slaves to escape.
- B. Harriet Tubman was very good at hiding herself from slaveholders.
- C. Disguises were a very important part of the Underground Railroad.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Facing danger, Harriet Tubman showed courage every day. Slaveholders knew who she was, and the police wanted to arrest her, but she kept on helping slaves to escape. Today, Harriet Tubman is remembered as a brave leader who made the world a better place."

What does the word "courage" mean in these sentences?

- A. bravery
- B. fear
- C. intelligence

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Many slaves were able to escape to the North _____ the Underground Railroad helped to hide them along the way.

- A. so
- B. because
- C. but

8. How did Harriet Tubman help slaves?

9. How did Harriet Tubman show courage in the face of danger?

10. Harriet Tubman showed through her actions that she was very brave and courageous. What other personality traits does Harriet Tubman show? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
