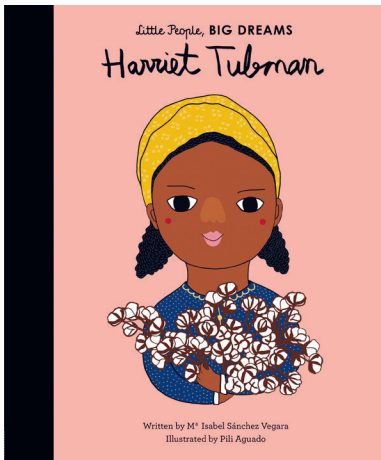


Little People, **BIG DREAMS**

TEACHERS' GUIDE



Harriet Tubman

Little People, BIG DREAMS

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LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

Born into slavery, Harriet Tubman risked her life to escape it—but she didn't stop there. Again and again, she returned to the South to rescue hundreds of enslaved people and bring them to freedom. A true American hero, Harriet's fearlessness, boundless determination, and bravery combine to inspire generations with the knowledge that we all have the power to make a better world.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN THIS UNIT

1. Why is Harriet Tubman an important historical figure?
2. What was Harriet's given name?
3. When she was young, what happened to Harriet's sisters?
4. What happened to make Harriet decide to escape slavery?
5. How did Harriet rescue hundreds of slaves?
6. What happened between the Northern and Southern states in the U.S. during Harriet's time?

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Young Harriet was born into slavery. Ask the class to discuss the idea of slavery. Do they think it is fair? Ask students what they think it might have felt like to be owned by someone else or have their family members bought and sold like property.

2. Ask the students to explain why they think slavery existed in Southern states but not in Northern states. Ask what eventually happened in the United States as a result of tensions between the Southern and Northern states. What do students think people could have done to avoid a civil war?
3. Harriet returned to the South many, many times and rescued hundreds of slaves. She became part of the Underground Railroad, a secret network of people helping slaves escape the South. Ask the class to discuss the idea of bravery.
4. The book shows an image of a twenty-dollar bill with Harriet's image on the front. Inform the class that this is an idea currently being discussed by government officials. Ask the students to consider what two things will make it unique among all the currency of the United States. Ask them to discuss whether or not they think this is a positive thing.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. When making her first escape to the North, young Harriet used the North Star as her guide. Using astronomy guides from the school library or online as a reference, have the students try to locate the North Star at night. Ask them to imagine how Harriet felt, using only her wits and that bright star as her guide to safety.
2. To gain perspective about the enormous distances traveled by Harriet and other escaping slaves, have the students track her path from Maryland to Philadelphia on a map or globe. Ask the class to consider what traveling that distance on foot and in secret must have felt like. Create a list of words describing these experiences and add to it as more ideas arise.
3. Ask the students to pretend they are part of the Underground Railroad. Assign them to look carefully around their homes to find possible places to keep "riders" safe and hidden on their treacherous journey. Have them write down their search results, and share with the rest of the class at school.
4. Harriet Tubman quarter: discuss the tradition of using people or other images on currency. Using the various state quarter designs as an example, have students imagine what a Harriet Tubman themed quarter might look like, and ask them to draw it. What scenes or images from her life would they choose? When finished, hang the quarters up to display.

Guide created by Shannon Gallagher

<http://quartokno.ws/LPBD>



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