

Name _____

Date _____



Harriet Tubman & Courage

“Let My People Go”

200 years ago, slavery was the norm in the United States. Black people were owned by white Americans and forced to work for no pay under harsh conditions. Most slaves lived in the South. In the North, laws making slavery illegal were eventually passed, though life for blacks in the North wasn't much better. Harriet Tubman was born in this America.

First name Harriet, last name Tubman,
Raised into slavery, raised into struggling.
Forced to obey every order they gave,
Every night, every day, all work no play.
Freedom? Huh, I wasn't born with any,
Birthplace: Maryland, around 1820.
By the time I was 12, I was working in fields
On a big farm, a plantation, for real.
Overseers made sure we didn't escape,
And they'd whip us if we made a tiny mistake.
By age 29, I still wasn't free,
It must be nice living life worry-free.
And then, I found out my owner's going to sell me
To another plantation, won't sit around waiting.
This is the last straw, I had to get gone.
How do I move on? I've got to be strong.
If I escaped, I knew they'd chase me.
I had to get to the North, where black folks could be free.
Didn't have a compass, didn't have a map,
Only had the North Star, so I followed that.
It lead me to Philly, I was free at last.

You probably think that I'd never go back
Down to the South, where they hunt slaves,
Where they kill slaves, it's a real shame.
But I did something that you might call brave,
I went back to the South to help others escape.
I don't think y'all hear me, I did something brave,
I went back to the South to help others escape.

The sun rises on the brand new day,
She made it North, but she could not stay.
She went back down South to show others the way,
She's Harriet Tubman.

(x2)

You can call me compassionate, call me selfless,
I thought about others, not just myself, yes
I went back to the South to rescue
My mom, dad, brother, sister, nieces and nephews.
Then, I went back for anyone I knew.
I used the Underground Railroad to get them through,
A secret network of people in houses and towns
Who helped slaves escape from the South.
We call these people abolitionists,
Their mission was to end slavery real quick.
I was a conductor under cover of darkness,
Sneaking people through fields, trees and marshes
To safe houses, where I knew they'd be safe,
Using secret codes to help pave the way.
Because it was illegal helping slaves escape,
And it was dangerous, too, so make no mistake.
I was determined and courageous in the face of dangers.
I was even tougher than steel that's stainless.

I made 19 trips, brought 70 slaves
From the South up to the northern states
And Canada, too, where they couldn't be caught.
In fact, I never lost a passenger at all.
During the Civil War, I was a nurse and a spy.
Yeah, I was fighting for freedom my entire life.

The sun rises on the brand new day,
She made it North, but she could not stay.
She went back down South to show others the way,
She's Harriet Tubman.

(2x)

Let my people go. Let my people go, and everybody say...
Let my people go. I said, let my people go, and everybody say...
Let my people go. Let my people go, and everybody say...
Let my people go. I said, let my people go.