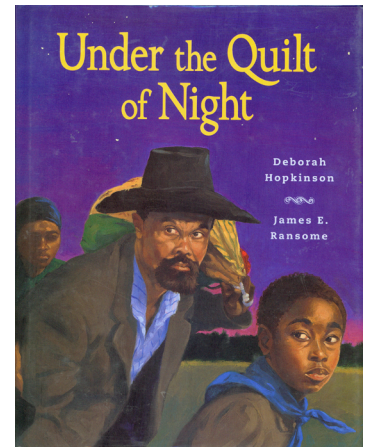


**IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES TO USE WITH
UNDER THE QUILT OF NIGHT
BY DEBORAH HOPKINSON, ILLUSTRATED BY JAMES E. RANSOME**



Before Reading:

1. Discuss the title. Look at the picture. Where is the quilt? What do you think the people are doing?

2. Have the students fill out the attached **What's the Truth?** page about the Underground Railroad. When students have completed the page and checked with partners, have them get into small groups and discuss their answers. Finally, review the pages together, letting students correct their answers. (This page can also be used after reading the book and related books). Use the attached poem about **The Underground Railroad** at any time if you wish.

During Reading:

3. While you are reading, have the students write down some interesting use of language or a phrase that they really like. If they can't get it written down, show them the **Figurative Language** page as a transparency and let them pick one from the page. If the one they like isn't on the page, they may be able to find it by looking at the book again.

a. Have each student fill out a **Double Entry Diary** page, **Golden Line** page or **Scintillating Sentence** page. When the pages are finished, they can be posted around the room for sharing.

b. Have each student write down a phrase and practice saying it. Then have them form a circle. As each student's turn comes, have him or her step forward into the circle, say the favorite phrase, and step back. Tell them not to worry if others have the same phrase. It just means that it is an especially wonderful phrase.

After Reading:

4. After reading the book aloud to the students, have them think of two unrelated words about the story or about how they feel about the story.

Have them use the attached sheet called **Two Words**. When students are finished, have students share one of their words. If there is time, they can share the other one.

5. In the story, the friend says, "*Search me if you like. I'm no friend of the slave.*" Ask students if they think it was right to lie. Why or why not?

6. Have students form small groups and choose a part of the story to act out. After they practice, have them perform for the class to see if the class can figure out which part of the story is being portrayed.

a. A variation of this is called "statues." Have the group members come to the front of the room and strike a pose to portray a scene. Have the class try to figure out what part of the story it is.

7. Let each student create a paper quilt pattern. Put them together to form a class quilt. For some examples of patterns, read the book, *Eight Hands Round* by Ann Whitford Paul, Illustrated by Jeanette Winter or *The Seasons Sewn* by Ann Whitford Paul, Illustrated by Michael McCurdy.

8. Make a list of the things the girl can do now because her family has reached Canada – things that she couldn't do before as a slave.
9. Design a T-shirt for the girl that celebrates her freedom, how she feels and/or the things that she can do or learn to do now.
10. Read: *Friend on Freedom River* by Gloria Whelan, Illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen. Compare the main character in this book, Louis, with the main character in *Under the Quilt of Night*. Use one of the character comparison pages or a **Venn Diagram** from the back of the packet.
11. Read: The companion book to *Under the Quilt of Night: Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* by the same author and illustrator. Compare the two books. Use one of the comparison sheets, a **Venn Diagram** or other form.
12. Read: *Barefoot* by Pamela Duncan Edwards and Henry Cole (the creators of *Clara Caterpillar*). Notice the part the animals play and the generic words used for the pursuers and the runaways. Why did the author use these names? How do they make you feel?
13. Read: *Almost to Freedom* by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, Illustrated by Colin Bootman. This story is told through the eyes of a doll. Have students think about an event in their lives. Have them tell a partner about it. Then have them write about this event as it might have been seen and experienced by a doll, action figure, or stuffed toy that they could have had with them at the time.

Other Related Books

About The Underground Railroad:

1. *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky* written and illustrated by Faith Ringgold
2. *Follow the Drinking Gourd* written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter
3. *Journey to Freedom: A Story of the Underground Railroad* by Courtni C. Wright, Illustrated by Gershom Griffith
4. *Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman* by Alan Schroeder, Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
5. *The Drinking Gourd, A Story of the Underground Railroad* by F. N. Monjo with pictures by Fred Brenner

About Quilts:

1. *Luka's Quilt* written and illustrated by Georgia Guback
2. *Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt* written and illustrated by Lisa Campbell Ernst
3. *The Josefina Story Quilt* by Eleanor Coerr, Illustrated by Bruce Degan
4. *The Patchwork Quilt* by Valerie Flournoy, Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
5. *The Quilt Story* by Tony Johnston, Illustrated by Tomie dePaola