



Shine Freedom!

Teacher: Mariann Smith

Lesson Length: (5) 40 minute sessions

Age/Grade Level: Gr 4

Subject: Social Studies

Topic: The Underground Railroad

Objectives:

- Students will read about/discuss local Underground Railroad connections and historical significance (comprehension)
- Students will compare various roles of people connected to the Underground Railroad (analysis)
- Using both writing and visual art strategies, students will compose a "portrait" that profiles one of the five roles relevant to the Underground Railroad (synthesis)

Connections:

2.16 Students observe, analyze, and interpret human behaviors, social groupings, and institutions to better understand people and the relationship among individuals and among groups.

Program of Studies: Understandings SS-4-CS-U-3

Students will understand that interactions among individuals and groups assume various forms (e.g., compromise, cooperation, conflict, competition) and are influenced by culture.

Program of Studies: Skills and Concepts SS-4-CS-S-3

Students will describe conflicts that occurred between diverse groups (e.g., Native Americans and the early settlers) in the settlement of Kentucky. [*enslaved Africans, European settlers*]

Related Core Content for Assessment SS-04-2.3.1

Students will describe various forms of interactions (compromise, cooperation, conflict) that occurred during the early settlement of Kentucky between diverse groups (Native Americans, early settlers). **DOK 2**

**Kentucky Department of Education Combined Curriculum Department (2006)
Social Studies Fourth Grade Academic Expectations**

Context:

In order to provide authentic writing opportunities that are relevant across the curriculum, these lessons will integrate significant fourth grade social studies core content concepts/concepts (KDE) in a one-week Writing Workshop.

Materials/Technology:



Rappaport, D. (2000). *Freedom River*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, "On An Underground Railroad: The Story of Tice Davids" video, audio/visual equipment, Writer's Notebooks, Critical Vocabulary/Core Content Words (CCWS) graphic organizer, Critical Vocabulary Word List, art supplies, exit slips (index cards)

Procedures:

Day #1

- Pre-Assessment - students individually brainstorm critical vocabulary and record in AlphaBox graphic organizer
- Writer's Notebook - read aloud to whole group the Historical Note about John Parker (found at the end of the book, Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport. (Share the cover art - visual prompt). Students will write a reading response in their Writer's Notebook followed by Share-Out.

Day #2

- Read Aloud - following a picture walk, read aloud the text, Freedom River. By Doreen Rappaport. Share the illustrator (autographed copy!) - Bryan Collier.
- Writer's Notebook - students will record a reading response (10 minutes) to the shared reading, followed by a Share-Out in small groups.
- Share critical vocabulary list. (Add to AlphaBoxes - model as developmentally-appropriate.)

Day #3

- Share the video, "On An Underground Railroad: The Story of Tice Davids" followed by a short discussion (What was the "gist" of the video?). Students will then record a written response in their Writer's Notebook. (Optional Share-Out)

Day #4

- EQ? What are the roles different people played on the Underground Railroad (UGRR)? *Roles in Society - victim, oppressor (bully), bystander, ally, freedom seeker* (Create/Model graphic organizer, e. g., use star cut-outs with labels and add adjectives, verbs, etc.)
- Ask students to start thinking about which role they would like to choose for "Face Time" activity (writing historical fiction/visual art portrait) - brainstorm, think time, discuss possibilities with partner/small group.

Day #5

- Draw/Write "Face Time" Writing Perspective: Roles in Society
- Share-Out
- Q/A - What do I want to know now?

Student Assessments:

- Exit Slips - Students write one question about something they still "don't get" on a 3 x 5 index card (teacher-directed clarification to be provided as developmentally-appropriate)
- Student Work Samples
- Share-Out (Gallery Display of Integrated Writing / Visual Art)

Critical Vocabulary / Core Content Words (CCWs)

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X, Y, Z

Underground Railroad Critical Vocabulary

Places

Jordan River - Ohio River

Canaan - The Promised Land, Canada

Grand Central Station - Cincinnati and Covington

Midnight - Detroit

Depot or Terminal - safe houses, churches, and other safe places along the way to freedom

People

Enslaved Person - someone who has been forced into slavery

Passenger - a runaway slave

Agent - someone who arranged passage for fugitives

Conductor - someone who helped slaves run away to freedom

Packages - hardware = man, dry goods = woman

UGRR Freedom Seeker

I am a freedom seeker. I was a slave. I would be a package of dry goods if I wanted to get away. I do not know when my birthday is. I sleep on the floor with no blankets and no pillows. All of my clothes are ripped. I have no friends at all. I cannot read or write. My owner treated me like a dog. My master hit me with a stick whenever I did something wrong. I was very sore. I could not move at all. I could have died but I was one of the lucky ones.

When I got to my new home they gave me a new name, Alyssa. When I turned ten, they started to treat me more like a slave. When I got to be twelve, I got very ill but I was lucky and I stayed alive. Most people die from the kind of sickness I had. My owner thought that there was something wrong with me because I got sick. So he gave me to one of his friends. Then one time when my master was sleeping, I snuck out and ran to the river but there was no boat. There has always been a boat there. Then I saw something running after me. So I ran. He yelled I want to help you so I stopped. He said that he had a boat to get over the river.

The day I got to Canada I was safe for the rest of my life. It was the happiest day of my whole life. I met new people. I had a great time. I even got to have new food that I never had before and it was so good I was about to run in circles. I ran up to John Parker and said thank you about a million times.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR

Underground Railroad

Victim to Freedom Seeker

I will begin in the time of the slaves. My name is Cameron. I'm nine years old. Sometimes I get to play on the ground (my bed). All I have to play baseball with is a rock and stick. I have a puppy. His name is Rex. I get to keep him only if I obey my master. I think I will escape tomorrow. I'm going to meet with an ally to escape.

This train is bumpy. Being a freedom seeker, I have to hide in a box for an hour or two. It's painful. At least it is better than getting whacked by my master's belt.

I can't read or write. Everything is wrong in this picture. Today I escaped. I feel happy because I 'm out of slavery. I have never seen my mom or dad. I'm scared of my master. Now I'm in Canada! I've still got Rex.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Ally

I am an ally. I want to be an ally because I can save people. I want to be able to help people get out of slavery. I want to help people get across the Ohio River. If we get caught, I would save them. I want to be like John Parker. I will save slaves until I die. If I do die, I will hope someone will stand up to the bullies and the slavery will stop! If not, it will be the same.

I am going to tell you a story! It's about John Parker. He helped people get out of slavery. He got people and got in his boat and went away. He saw a person on the bank of the Ohio River. He wants to take them from slavery. But the slave said, "No, I have a wife at home and a baby!" He went to the owner's room. He saw the baby! He saw a gun! He grabbed it! He grabbed the baby. He dropped the gun. It woke the owner! He chased them. He didn't catch them! A few days passed and someone came and knocked on John's door! He said you took my dad's slaves! The more he searched, the farther they got away!

We don't have slavery anymore. That was a long time ago. If I get everyone out of slavery, I will be happy! If not, I will be sad.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR

Freedom Seeker / Ally

I like to help people because I try to keep them out of trouble. One time I got beat and went to jail. One day I got free and I still helped slave get out of slavery. I never got beat again and I hide them in boxes and crates.

They all got free but I still have to get my son and get the slaves to Canada. I got in the door. I saw my son. I did not see the dogs. My son was in one of the beds by the master sleeping. The master had a knife. I took my baby. He started crying. The master threw the knife and hit me but I did not give up. I got in the boat. Then my wife pulled the knife out of my back and the slaves got to Canada safe and sound.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

I Am an Ally

Hi! My name is Hannah. What I do is help people get out of slavery. I hide people in places like

- Boxes
- Hay
- Safe Houses
- Wagons

Sometimes I act like I am a bad guy. Then I take the slaves to the Underground Railroad and let them be free forever. I buy them

- Food
- Clothes

I love buying them clothes because they don't like wearing the same clothes over and over. If you get caught helping slaves get out of slavery, you could get really hurt. Like getting shredded into pieces by dogs or shot by your owner. You also could get hung.

I will always help people get out of slavery. I think black people should be treated the same way as white people.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad ,The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR Freedom Seeker

I am a freedom seeker. I tried to run away eight times but I always got caught. I work for the Underground Railroad. I live in Kentucky but I want to get to Canada. I always think to get a little wooden boat and make paddles and get on the Ohio River. Then I could get to the Mississippi River and then go north. But I always get caught. I am never going to give up.

My name is Rocky. I am twelve years old. John Parker is a friend of my father. John and I are freedom seekers. I wish I was not a slave. The black people wish they were not slaves. The white people are the bullies. We are their slaves. They stole the black people from Africa. I really hope that someday I will go to Canada with my family.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR Roles

Oppressor / Bully

I am a bully in the Underground Railroad. I buy slaves and make them work. Then we sell the slaves and buy more slaves and sell them and buy more. I make them work. I make them miserable. If they don't work, we torture them more. If they don't listen, then I make them work and never get a break.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGGR Oppressor

I am an Underground Railroad Oppressor. I take people from their families and make them slaves. If I didn't like what they were doing, I would beat them. Sometimes I killed them. I would take a whip and whip them on the back. It really hurt them. I sometimes cut their back. I was a mean man.

I didn't give some people a name. If I caught a slave escaping and who ever was helping them, I threw them in prison. You could say I had no friends. I made people work. If they didn't, I punished them. Sometimes the punishment was death.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR Freedom Seeker

I am a freedom seeker on the Underground Railroad. I'm also a passenger. I live in Kentucky. I'm going to Canada where I will be safe from a bully. I wouldn't be a package on the UGRR if I didn't have to. Some slaves escaped by hiding in a box. But I wouldn't get in a stinky box because I would be really stinky if I did. I don't want to be really stinky because I don't have any money for a shower so I wouldn't be able to wash off.

I will cross the Ohio River to get out of slavery. I'm glad I'm not a slave anymore because I escaped with the conductor of the UGRR. Listen! Don't give up a chance with an ally or you will regret it. I can't wait till I get to Canada. When I was escaping the oppressor was shooting and he set the dogs on us. It was hard to get away from the bully, but I got away. Well, that's all. I hope you liked it.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Underground Railroad Bystander

I just stand around. I act like I do not know what they are talking about. I live in Kentucky. I am a witness who does nothing. I just stand there. I like being a bystander. I like doing my job. People like me because I know how to do my job.

I chose to become a bystander to slavery because... I have a family to take care of and I work on a farm. I grow food on my farm for my family.

I don't have time to help freedom seekers.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Underground Railroad UGRR Freedom Seeker

I am a package of dry goods. I am a freedom seeker. I remember when I tried to get away. The person that helped me got killed and I got beat. My owner kept his eyes on me. I had to wash dishes, make all the meals, and work in the field at night. I didn't have a name. I will never know when my birthday is. I slept on the ground outside with NO blankets or pillows and ripped clothes.

I got taken away from my mom and dad when I was only one year old, but now I am fifteen. I have not seen my mom and dad since. I remember when it was snowing and hailing and my owner still made me sleep outside. It was so cold that night he even gave his dog a blanket and a bed. It was still snowing the next day. I was so cold. I saw someone. I had not ever seen this man before.

He came over to me and said, "Come."

I said, "Where are we going?"

The man said, "We are going to Canada."

I said, "OK."

I followed the man. It took days but I did not care. I just cared that I was getting out of there and that was it. I went to a safe house. It was a barn. The guy stayed with me. We got up the next morning and got to Canada. I was so happy. I became a teacher. I had a great life. My new name is Madison.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Underground Railroad

UGRR Ally

I am an ally in the 1800s. I helped about 1000 slaves and three babies. When I was a kid, my father sold me for \$1000 to a white man. When I was 21, I got out of slavery and became an ally. I helped slaves get across the Ohio River and get to freedom. If anyone was left behind, I went back for them. If they were sick, I helped them feel better.

One time, I helped a family escape. When we got to the boat something bad happened! One of the slave catcher's dogs jumped into the boat and killed the dad. Then I pushed the dog off the boat! When the hunter got to the shoreline, he tried to shoot us and tried to make us sink. Without a warning, he shot the boat. Before the boat sank, we got to the state of Ohio. I tried to shoot the hunter but I missed.

When we were in Ohio, I took the mom and the baby into a safe house.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

I am an Ally

I am an ally in the Underground Railroad. I still am and I remember when I helped families. It was kind of hard though. I had to go in places and get people like kids, babies, and sometimes I had to get adults. I had to hide people in boxes and under hay.

My name is Hannah. I'm proud of what I do because I like to help slaves. I think it is wrong that the white people take slaves. The slaves need to go to school and learn so they can be successful when they grow up. I treat black people just like I treat white people.

When I help slaves, I buy them shirts, pants, and sometimes shoes. I give the slaves the stuff they need and I watch them for a day. I help people almost everyday. I think of a lot of places to put them. Sometimes I hide the slaves in the safe house. I am proud that I help the slaves. A lot of people are proud of me. I think that all people should be treated the same. I think it is mean when they made black people be their slaves. I almost died because I almost got shot.

It makes me feel good when I help a slave. It makes me feel good because it is like saving a life to me. The part I don't like is some get spanked and all of them get stolen from their home. I would be sad if someone took me out of my house so I think all the white people should think. I know the white people would not like getting taken from their families.

Now you know how I feel. They feel way worse because some mothers and fathers got taken away from their babies and their kids. The kids felt really bad, too. I bet the kids and babies are afraid when you take them away from their parents. Everybody think before you take a slave. Remember they have a family. Think if that was you, you wouldn't like it if someone took you from your family. So think before you do it.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR

Freedom from Slavery

I am an ally so that I could help slaves get out of slavery. My goal would be to try to save 1,000 or more slaves in my life. I could see the Underground Railroad. But it's not a real train. The Underground Railroad is not really underground.

I would help slaves even if I died doing it. My favorite part would be to go across the Ohio River. I could buy food and clothes for the slaves if they are poor.

I would even kill the slave chasers to save a slave, but I don't want to. I would kill as many as it took if I needed to. I would let them stay at my house until it was safe. I could take passengers to the safe houses and keep them there or give them to a conductor. They can take the slaves some place safe.

I know I am risking my life but at least the slaves are safe. I would never be a bystander. I would always try to help at least once. I would die for slaves in slavery. Once the slaves have escaped, I would try to hide them.

I would do my best to protect them from other slave chasers. Like I said before, I would die for slaves. It makes me happy to see slaves out of slavery. People shouldn't be forced to do anything just because of their skin color or the way they speak. They should be let to do what they want. I think freedom is the best thing that can happen to people.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Underground Railroad

UGRR Bully

I am a bully in the time of slavery. I'm a slave chaser. I chase the slaves if they run away. If someone comes and tries to rescue them, we have dogs and guns. The dogs are mean and vicious. We have a lot of guns and strong ones. A lot of people try to release the slaves. Our dogs get to the slaves before we get to them a lot. I have been shot before. It hurt badly. It is hard to do this job chasing slaves.

We are near a river. A lot of people use boats to get across the Ohio River because they are safe over there. We try to put holes in the boats so they sink. We try our best to keep the slaves in Kentucky. That is where they go all the time. We have a big base and a lot of guys in our base. We should have boats so we can chase them on the Ohio River. We need some horses to ride.

We are hurtful and mean but a man's got to do what a man's got to do. We are brave men. We have to do what our boss tells us or we will get fired from our job and we can't feed ourselves or our kids. We can't get in trouble and get fired from our job. Our job pays good. I don't want to get fired from this job. I have a good job. I would never quit. Nobody is ever mean to me.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

The Underground Railroad UGRR Oppressor (Bully)

I am on the Underground Railroad (UGRR). I live in Kentucky. I own slaves. They have to clean my home, do the dishes, make my bed, and clean my sinks.

When they run away some of the people get caught by the dogs. I have 100 slaves and cows. I chase slaves with dogs, guns, traps, and holes. They don't know their names. One of the slave hunters, Jack, is my friend.

I buy slaves. That is how I got the slaves. I am going to buy more slaves.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Underground Railroad Ally

I saw a little slave girl being whipped. That is when I decided to be an ally. I felt terrible for that family.

I had a dream that night. I was trying to get her to Canada. We were being chased by an oppressor. Just when I thought things couldn't get any worse, the little girl tripped. Then I woke up. I was so scared!

I had to find a way to get them to Canada and fast. We found another ally that could get them there faster. I knew what I had to do. I had to get her on a train. Ever since then, I have helped many slaves. I'll never forget them.

Resources:

Freedom River, Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

The Underground Railroad

I am an ally. I want to save the slaves and help them run to Canada. I will hide them in my barn behind hay. Then I will take them to Canada in my wagon to get away from bullies. But if I die, I know someone else will do it and be an ally. But until I die, I will take as many slaves as I possibly can, even if I am risking my life. I'll take them as far away as I can. I will take them at night and put them under sheets and not give them back to the bullies. I will take big risks. I think having slaves is wrong.

Yes, we made it to Canada. I hope everyone is safe. Bye! I'm going back for more slaves to bring to Canada because having slaves is wrong. There are more and more slaves each and every day. Every slave I saved is so happy but their owners mad at me. But I don't care. They can get as mad as they want to but I won't give them back. I don't care about them. I care about the slaves, not the bullies. They got whipped right in front of a crowd. Most people walked away but a few people tried to help them. I liked that now we are friends!

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR

Underground Railroad

I am an ally on the Underground Railroad. I will not give up on helping slaves escape. I do not care if I get shot. I will take them and hide them. I do not care if I get caught. Slavery is wrong. I will help them get to Canada. I will fight to help slaves escape. I will do that for the rest of my life. I will not go down without a fight. I will help every slave I can.

I was a slave once. That was what gave me the idea to become an ally. And it feels great to help slaves escape.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Underground Railroad Freedom Seeker

I am a freedom seeker because I was a slave. I want to be able to get out of Kentucky. I just want to get out of here. I wish somebody would come and rescue me. Like a life saver or risk taker. I would also risk my life for him or her.

I pray, "God, please help me get through my life as a slave. Amen." So a few weeks passed. I said, "Aaahhh, another day in slavery."

Another guy said, "Have you heard that Harriet Tubman rescued somebody again."

So night time came and I heard something. There she was. Standing right in front of me was Harriet Tubman.

She whispered in a small voice, "Come on."

So I got up and went. She was taking me to a safe house but I didn't know it at the time.

I got up and said, "Where you are taking me?"

"To freedom!" she said.

While she was taking me, I was saying to God, "Thank you."

Harriet Tubman said, "This will take about two weeks to get to Canada."

I said, "Where are we going to stay?"

"I know someone. He will hide you in his barn. Tomorrow you will travel." Harriet Tubman said, "Tomorrow night, look for the houses that have lights in them."

So tomorrow night came and I found a house with a light and went to the house. The person gave me a map to Canada.

I was so happy when I got to Canada because there was no more whipping or shooting. I was finally free! I was so happy I jumped up and down. But I still thought that they were looking for me. I also hope that Harriet Tubman was

alright. I wish I could thank her for what she did. She saved my life. That was a big risk.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR

The Story of a Victim

I am a slave during the time of the Underground Railroad. Bullies beat me every day. I always get scared because other slaves die. I am sick of it. I want to get out. I don't even have a change of clothes. I want to get to Canada. Allies try to help me. I can't go. I have a husband and five children.

I went to sleep. I had a very bad dream. The next day, my husband got whipped because a bully wanted someone to beat. Then a bully killed a friend's only daughter. My friend was crying. One bully saw her and started to beat her too.

That night, my friend and my family got on a boat and got over the Ohio River. Everyone got in a box. We got to Canada in a wagon. I am so glad I got away from slavery. I lived a very happy life. From then on, I was happy.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Underground Railroad

I'm a victim. I'm a slave. I'm on the UGRR. My name is Blake. I was taken from my parents at seven years old. Now I'm twenty years old. It is not fun to be a slave. I wish I was free in Canada. I don't get payed or get much food and we get beat if we try to escape.

It's against the law to try and free me. If someone comes to get me, they better be smart. The ally better get me to a safe house fast because my owner is mean. He will put you in jail or kill you. They will keep me until I die. You don't want to be in this mess. You will miss your family if this happens to you.

You are lucky that you're free. I hope I can get to Canada so I can be free. Then I will live and have a family and do whatever I want. Then I can get a job and buy anything I want. Then let my kids grow up and be free and get a job. Then share the story that I was a slave. Then it can get passed on for people to learn what happened to me.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR

Underground Railroad / Ally

I am a conductor. I like to get slaves to freedom and keep them from bullies so they don't hurt them. The conductor tries to get people to freedom in Canada so they would be untouched. That will be awesome. Slavery is wrong. OK, in 2007, hopefully they don't do slavery cause bullies are wrong people to do that stuff.

My main thing is help 20 people and that would be awesome to do that. They want to make it to Ohio across the Ohio River and then they try to get to Michigan and finally get to Canada. I always wanted to get them to Canada and I got them to Canada. I got my goal reached. The slaves made their goal also. All of us are happy because everybody did their part and that is all that matters. They are free in Canada and out of the U.S.A. Finally, they are safe in Canada and they don't have to go through that again. The slaves are free once they cross the border of the U.S.A to the Canada side. They liked it there. They hugged me out of thanks. I saved people's lives.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

My Enslaved Life

I'm a slave on the Underground Railroad. My name is Kyle. I can't take it anymore. I was kidnapped when I was three and now I'm 25. I've been beaten for 20 years! A few months ago, I was saved by a man named David. We made it across Jordan River! We found a conductor named Logan. In six months, we made it to Canada. Although I'll miss my family, I love Canada! After I got to Canada, I got a neck brace because I twisted my neck. I twisted my neck hiding in a box. It really hurts!

In honor of the ally that saved me, I've decided to become an ally. I think it's a good idea. So far, I've saved one person. Her name is Faith.

Eleven years have passed. I think it is hard being an ally. The year is 1846 and I've saved hundreds of people. My most special save was when I saved my family but that's the time I got shot in the arm. I'm growing old. Soon, I think it will be time for my death.

This is Kyle's wife. Well, Kyle died on December 5, 1847.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR

Underground Railroad

I am an ally. I try to help slaves out of slavery. But if a bully finds me, I will be beaten and locked in jail. I risk my life to help slaves to get across the Ohio River. I may get killed but I don't care. I will do anything to help slaves.

Bullies are slave traders, cruel owners, buyers/sellers of slaves, and mean slave chasers. John Parker was a risk taker. He was also an ally. He saved hundreds of slaves. I saved hundreds of slaves.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR Bystander

I am a bystander because I don't want to get involved with the Underground Railroad. By the way, The Underground Railroad isn't a real train. There are a lot of bad things happening in the 1830's. There is also a lot of going off by yourself. You will need some help because that isn't very safe for kids and even adults. It is very scary and I know because I was there.

One other reason why I am a bystander is because when you do something wrong you get beat very badly by your owner who is very mean. When your owner beats you, they don't even care if you get hurt. The people that they beat are called enslaved people. The allies are very helpful. But my job is to stay away from the freedom seekers, slaves, bullies, and the victims. They are ones that are involved with everything. All I have to do is not get involved in everything.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR Bystander

I'm a bystander in the Underground Railroad. That means I don't care if someone is getting hunted. I should worry about my family not them. So I'm not going to worry about it because I should worry about doing my chores. I don't want to get hurt. So I don't care about any of them because they're not family. So that's that.

I just walked right away and didn't get in their business because it's their fault they tried to be a runaway slave. That's why it's not my business. My business is to worry about my business and my business only. So that's what it's like to be a bystander.

So if you were asking what it was like to be a bystander, well, there you go. Just a reminder, you should be happy with your life. And for the adults, be happy with your children or your child and your job.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR Oppressor

I play the oppressor on the Underground Railroad. I beat slaves when they try to get to Ohio. If I catch them, I will hurt them and I might kill them.

If they get away, they are free. My slaves are a man and woman and a baby. The woman is a shoemaker and the man is a carpenter. They don't get paid. If they don't work, I will beat them. I can sell them if I want.

If they mess-up, they will have to redo it or they will be whipped. They don't try to run or they could be killed if they are caught. My last slave died working. He was building my house and fell off the roof and died.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Underground Railroad

The Lifetime of a Victim

I am a victim. My name is Joni. I get whipped by oppressors. I got pulled away from my family a few years ago. I am now twelve years old.

Every night the oppressors say, "Get over here, Joni."

I cry every night and day. I never get to go inside. I have to sleep in the barn with the cows. (At least the cows like me, I can trust them.) I only get to be fed twice a day. When it rains, I have to drink the rain. I have way more than twenty bruises on my legs. I get whipped more than five times a day.

I have been wearing the same thing for three years. They said that they would take my clothes and never give them back. The town here is not safe. Nor are the people. I hope I get out of this mess. I hope I get to go home. I hope I stay alive.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

The Underground Railroad Bystander

I am a bystander. I did not do anything because I was scared. I thought bullies would kill my family and me. My friends and I did nothing. I just stood there. I just let the bullies get the slaves because I was scared that they would hurt my family and me. So I just stood there. Like I said, I was scared. Really scared. One of the scariest things to worry about is people killing your family.

I love every one except for the bullies. I would not to try hurt anyone. I just watch them go. I was really scared. I would let nothing try to hurt my family or my friends. If my family got hurt, I do not know what I would do. I just watch them. I love my family so much. I am still wondering what I could have done when I was back in the UGRR. That is what I have been wondering since 1847.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR

Underground Railroad Ally

I'm an ally. I help slaves get to freedom. I have done a lot for freedom seekers. I took a huge risk in my life time. If I die I do not care, as long as I get freedom seekers to freedom. I got taken away from my parents when I was ten.

Now, more about my ally life... I get slaves to Ohio on a boat because they have to get to freedom. Well, sometimes I have to ship them off in boxes and put them on a train. This is not a thing to laugh about. If they have to go the bathroom, they have to go in the box and it is not funny.

Slavery is still happening now. People choose to beat other people and I say it is wrong. The people that choose to beat slaves do not go to jail because they own them. Also, I have never been caught while shifting slaves off to Mexico or Canada. Slaves are forced to do stuff they do not want to do. Bullies have come to my house and searched it to see if slaves are hidden in it. Now you know all about my ally life!

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

The Underground Railroad

I am an ally. I help people on the Underground Railroad get to the Ohio River. I can't just stand there. I have to help them. People went to jail if they helped black people. Black people got beaten to death. John Parker got away. Some people died before getting to Canada. Some black people had to hide in a box and they poked holes in the boxes so they could breathe. If they had to use the bathroom, they went in the box. If white people helped black people, the white people could go to jail. White people beat the black people up. Some white people stood watching the slaves. White people cried.

I am an ally for the UGRR. An ally is a risk taker, friend, and helps slaves get out of slavery. John Parker was a risk taker.

Resources:

Freedom River, Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Underground Railroad

I am an Ally

I am an ally because I help freedom seekers across the Ohio River. I want slavery to stop! I don't care if I die helping someone! I want them to escape to Canada. Being an ally is hard because you have a chance of dying. I can be shot for helping a slave because African Americans can be KILLED. Not white people because they have freedom. If the freedom seeker got caught, he or she could be KILLED by the oppressor.

My family doesn't want me to be an ally because I can be KILLED on the job. My name is Michael. Once I helped a freedom seeker named Connor. I also helped someone named Jacob. They made it to Canada I helped a lot of people in 1847.

The year is 1903. I am 90 years old. I think it is time for my death.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR Roles

I'm a victim. UGRR stands for Underground Railroad. I am an enslaved person that is afraid to leave Kentucky because I have seen people get shot and killed. They tried to run away and the bullies cut off their legs. I have a baby. They might kill my baby because she is part of my family. So I am afraid to go across the Ohio River, even with an ally person. I am afraid either way. I have seen people get whipped with the belt and other things. I am not taking a chance of them hurting my baby and me getting hurt.

Did I tell you what happened? I found a way to escape that night. There was a big storm. I ran in zigzags. I know the dogs will not get me. I saw a church. I went under the floorboards. Then I looked up from some holes and saw an ally. Her name was Molly. She took us home in her wagon. When we got to her house, there was a light in the window. We knew we were safe.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

UGRR Bystander

I am a bystander on the UGRR. If you are wondering what UGRR stands for, all it is the Underground Railroad. I wish that I could help the enslaved people but I can't. I have thirteen children. I can't because I have to take care of my children. I have a huge house and farm.

I will just stand there and stare thinking. I have too much. This is not my problem. Did I tell you my name? If I didn't, my name is Hanna. When I was a little girl about nine years old, I became a bystander. When my children go out, they will just stand there and stare thinking some of the things that I think over and over again. I love them so much, I can't help other people. I told you all I know about being a bystander.

Resources:

Freedom River, by Doreen Rappaport (2000)

On An Underground Railroad, The Story of Tice Davids, video by Kinny Landrum (1996)

Ordinary People

Doing Extraordinary Things

I am pleading for the mothers
Who gaze in wild despair
Upon the hated auction-block
And see their children there.

Sojourner Truth

I'm on my way to Canada,
That cold, but happy land:
The dire effects of slavery
I can no longer stand.
Sung by Harriet Tubman

Shine Freedom!

