

## **STUDY GUIDE**

Written by Joanna Maddox

### ***ARTIST BACKGROUND***

Joanna Maddox a professional actress, singer, storyteller writes and performs dramatic portrayals of historical American women. She received a BFA in Drama from the University of Georgia. She has toured throughout the US and is an approved Touring Artist of the National Women's History Project and Fulton County Arts Council's School Arts Program. She has appeared in numerous national television and radio commercials, corporate videos and is a member of Screen Actor's Guild and AFTRA.

### ***CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS***

This program incorporates women's history and social studies; the time period covered is before the Civil War. Language arts can be introduced by students writing an essay about Harriet Tubman.

### ***PROGRAM OBJECTIVES***

1. To bring to life a legend in American History Harriet Tubman, who helped over 300 slaves gain their freedom on the Underground Railroad.
2. To create an awareness of the students of what it was really like to be a slave and work for free.
3. To present the true hardships of slavery.
4. To demonstrate the sheer will power, determination and perseverance of a woman who against the odds gained her freedom.

### ***PROGRAM SUMMARY***

The life of Harriet Tubman, a Champion of Freedom, is dramatically portrayed from early childhood to adulthood. The audience travels back in time with Harriet as she describes her life as a slave. Harriet Tubman was born Araminta Ross around 1820. She worked as a house servant and a field hand on a plantation in Maryland. She escaped from the bonds of slavery in the summer of 1849, she traveled by night through Maryland, Delaware and finally to Philadelphia. She made 19 trips back down south to lead other slaves, including her parents, to freedom. She soon became known as the "Moses" of her people. Her trips were carefully planned and brilliantly executed by the use of the "Underground Railroad," an ever-changing series of secret hiding places.

During the Civil War Harriet Tubman served the Union Army as a spy, scout, and hospital nurse.

After the war she made her home in Auburn NY where she lived until her death on March 10, 1913.

### ***VOCABULARY***

Plantation – An agricultural estate worked by resident labor.

Underground Railroad – A loose network of antislavery people who secretly helped fugitive slaves reach the North and Canada.

Conductor - a person who serves as a guide to runaway slaves.

Sleeping Spells – Fainting or Blackouts that Harriet Tubman suffered caused by brain damage.

Slaves – People who are owned by other people and forced to work without pay.

Freedom– Not being subject to domination or control of someone else.

Quakers - Religious group of people that did not believe in slavery.

Slave State – A state in the U.S. in which slavery was legal before the Civil War.

### ***OVERVIEW OF ART FORM***

The art forms demonstrated in this program are storytelling, dramatic art and music.

Information presented in the narrative form is the information that will be remembered. Before television and radio people told stories and the ancient art of storytelling is making a comeback. Storytelling can be used to entertain, inspire, encourage, heal, and to pass down cultural history and information from generation to generation. Through stories people can connect, learn and appreciate each other's differences. Harriet Tubman used songs as messages to the alert prospective runaway slaves. Artist will sing several songs throughout the program.

### ***PRE-ACTIVITIES***

- Students may read books from the resource guide.
- Have discussions on what it was like to be a slave.
- Discuss what freedom means to you.

### ***POST ACTIVITIES***

- Watch the video, "A Woman called Moses."
- Would you risk death to escape slavery?
- Discuss whether or not slavery played a part in starting the Civil War?
- Learn the poem "Harriet Tubman Didn't Take No Mess" and recite to class.
- Read the book "Follow the Drinking Gourd."
- Learn and sing the song "Follow the Drinking Gourd" a coded song that tells the escape route from Alabama and Mississippi.
- Take a US map and retrace the steps of Harriet Tubman.
- Study a constellation map and discover how Harriet Tubman was able to find her way by following the North Star.
- Take a virtual reality journey with Harriet Tubman on the Underground Railroad. (See Resources)

### Discussion

- Why did Harriet Tubman want to be free?
- Why didn't she want to be a slave anymore?
- Why did the Quaker woman help Harriet Tubman escape?
- Why did Harriet risk her life to free other slaves?

Students may act out a scene with Harriet Tubman leading a group of slaves on the Underground Railroad. Assign different characters.

### Cast of Characters

- Harriet Tubman
- Up to 10 Slaves (male and female)
- Conductors
- Slave Catchers
- Safe House Owners
- Quakers
- Free Blacks who served as conductors on the Underground Railroad

### ***RESOURCES***

#### Video Recording

- "A Woman Called Moses" starring Cicely Tyson
- "Harriet Tubman" Living History Productions Paul Wendkos

#### Books

- Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the sky Faith Ringgol
- GO FREE OR DIE: A story about Harriet Tubman Jeri Ferris

MINTY: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman	Alan Schroeder
YOUNG HARRIET TUBMAN (Freedom Fighter)	Anne Benjamin
HARRIET TUBMAN	Judith Bentley
HARRIET TUBMAN: They called me Moses	Linda D. Meyer
THE STORY OF HARRIET TUBMAN: Freedom Train	Dorothy Sterling
HARRIET TUBMAN: The road to freedom	Rae Bains
THE STORY OF HARRIET TUBMAN: (Conductor of the Underground Railroad )	Kate McMullan
HARRIET TUBMAN AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH	Polly Carter
FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD	Jeanette Winter

For reality tour: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad/index.html>

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory>

For CD: <http://www.tajblues.com/splash.php>

(Follow the Drinking Gourd)

## **HARRIET TUBMAN**

HARRIET TUBMAN DIDN'T TAKE NO MESS  
 WASN'T SCARED OF NOTHING EITHER  
 DIDN'T COME IN THIS WORLD TO BE NO SLAVE  
 AND WASN'T GONNA STAY ONE EITHER

FAREWELL SHE SAID TO HER FRIENDS ONE NIGHT  
 SHE WAS MIGHTY SCARED TO LEAVE EM  
 BUT SHE RAN AWAY THAT DARK HOT NIGHT  
 RAN LOOKING FOR HER FREEDOM

SHE RAN TO THE WOODS AND SHE RAN  
 THROUGH THE WOODS WITH THOSE SLAVE  
 CATCHERS RIGHT BEHIND HER  
 BUT SHE KEPT ON RUNNING TIL SHE GOT TO THE NORTH  
 WHERE THOSE MEAN MEN COULDN'T CATCH HER

NINETEEN TIMES SHE WENT BACK BACK SOUTH  
 TO GET 300 OTHERS  
 NINETEEN TIMES SHE RAN FOR HER FREEDOM  
 TO FREE HER SISTERS AND BROTHERS

HARRIET TUBMAN DIDN'T TAKE NO MESS  
 WASN'T SCARED OF NOTHIN EITHER  
 DIDN'T COME IN THIS WORLD TO BE NO SLAVE  
 AND DIDN'T STAY ONE EITHER  
 (REPEAT)