

Name _____ Period _____

from *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* **Analysis Guide**

Excerpt of Text		Central Idea
<p>Along the Eastern Shore of Maryland, in Dorchester County, in Caroline County, the masters kept hearing whispers about the man named Moses, who was running off slaves. At first they did not believe in his existence. The stories about him were fantastic, unbelievable. Yet they watched for him. They offered rewards for his capture.</p>		
Inquiry	Response	
<p>Lines 1–6: What is revealed about the subject in these lines? How does the structure of the paragraph show the masters' illogical reaction to Moses?</p>		
Excerpt of Text		Central Idea
<p>Harriet Tubman could have told them that there was far more involved in this matter of running off slaves than signaling the would-be runaways by imitating the call of a whippoorwill, or a hoot owl, far more involved than a matter of waiting for a clear night when the North Star was visible.</p> <p>In December, 1851, when she started out with the band of fugitives that she planned to take to Canada, she had been in the vicinity of the plantation for days, planning the trip, carefully selecting the slaves that she would take with her.</p> <p>She had announced her arrival in the quarter by singing the forbidden spiritual—"Go down, Moses, 'way down to Egypt Land"[2]—singing it softly outside the door of a slave cabin, late at night. The husky voice was beautiful even when it was barely more than a murmur borne[3]on the wind.</p>		
Inquiry	Response	
<p>Lines 33–46: Summarize Tubman's action in "running off slaves." What do those actions show about her character?</p>		

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Inquiry	Response	
<p>Lines 42–46: What is the effect of the author's choice to describe Tubman's voice in this vivid way?</p>		
Excerpt of Text		Central Idea
<p>But there were so many of them this time. She knew moments of doubt when she was half-afraid, and kept looking back over her shoulder, imagining that she heard the sound of pursuit. They would certainly be pursued. Eleven of them. Eleven thousand dollars' worth of flesh and bone and muscle that belonged to Maryland planters. If they were caught, the eleven runaways would be whipped and sold South, but she—she would probably be hanged.</p>		
Inquiry	Response	
<p>Lines 71–78: How does Tubman seem to deal with feelings of fear? How does the author compare Tubman's possible fate to that of the runaway?</p>		

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Inquiry	Response	
<p>Lines 74–76: What sentence fragments are in these lines? What effect do these fragments have on the reader?</p>		
Excerpt of Text		Central Idea
<p>She turned away from the house, frowning. She had promised her passengers food and rest and warmth, and instead of that, there would be hunger and cold and more walking over the frozen ground.</p>		
Inquiry	Response	
<p>Lines 104–108: What example of parallelism is in these lines?</p>		