



TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad

[Google Maps Lit Trip Link](#)

Synopsis of Book

David Adler shares the fascinating life and deeds of Harriet Tubman set in the historical context of the Abolitionist movement and the Civil War. Not only did Harriet escape from slavery and serve as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, but she participated in many other important events and knew many of the influential people in the Abolitionist and women's suffrage movements. Using an engaging style and generous examples of primary source materials and pictures, the book will entice students to learn more about these important events.

Using a TeachersFirst Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks are a way of creating a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this Instructional Guide and the accompanying Reading Trek as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Grade Level & Content Areas

Grades 5-9 English Language Arts, social studies, including history and geography. RL = 7th grade, Lexile = 990.

Common Core State Standards for MS/HS

Reading

- **Informational Text** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)
- **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas** (analyze in different mediums)
- **Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity** (start with scaffolding, end with independence and proficiency)

Writing

- **Text Types and Purposes** (to support claims with evidence)
- **Research** (to build and present knowledge)

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

Key Themes

- **CULTURES**
- **TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE**
- **PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS**
- **CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES**
- **INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY**

ISTE: Student Standards

(1) Empowered Learner: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.

(3) Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.

(6) Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

Using the Reading Trek in Class

This inspirational biography provides multiple resources about the life and times of Harriet Tubman. Students can place her life events within the history and culture of her times and think about important issues in American history that reverberate today.

- Using the Reading Trek, explore the time periods of the 1820s to early 1900s. In large or small groups, have students work through the layers, which are mostly chronological.
- Use the links to learn more about the events in the book that were so pivotal in the life of Harriet Tubman and their social and civic ramifications for today.
- Using the map and locales, trace and then calculate distances for some of Tubman's rescues, missions, and places she lived. Use this [Google Map of Escape Routes](#) for ideas.
- Extend the information on the map and in the book by having students, individually or in groups, create storyboards, mindmaps, and biographies using digital tools like [Amazon Storybuilder](#), Holt Interactive [Graphic Organizers](#), and [The Biography Maker](#), about the important people in Tubman's life. Click each tool name to see TeachersFirst's review with ideas for using the tool.

Additional Activities

1. Using the historical information and primary sources from the book, have students create timelines of the important events during a period in Tubman's life.

2. If students live in an area that might have Underground Railroad or Civil War sites, students can research local history and share their findings.
3. Using the Reading Trek and a [Harriet Tubman Web Hunt](#), answer the questions in the hunt about Tubman's life.
4. Choose another [read-alike](#) about Harriet Tubman for further exploration.
5. Pick an issue that concerns a national debate involving human rights, such as slavery today, profiling by authorities, immigration, or refugees, to investigate and share points about the issues and why there may be different viewpoints.

Helpful Resources

- [Interview with David Adler](#)
- [Google Map of Harriet Tubman Escape Routes](#)
- [Read with a Purpose Guide about Harriet Tubman](#)
- [Library of Congress Web Guides: Harriet Tubman Online Resources](#)
- [An Educator's Guide to The David A. Adler Picture Book Biographies](#)
- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Mapping Across Content Areas with Google](#)
- [Ok2Ask: Seeing is Believing: Make Literature Come Alive with Google Lit Trips](#)