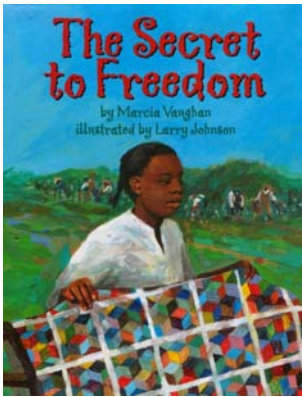


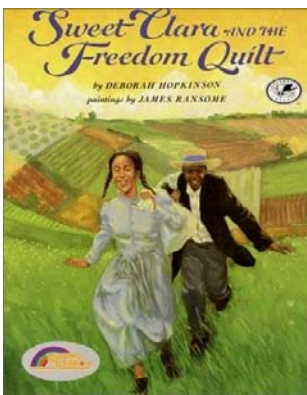
## Recommended Readings and Resources



If you are interested in learning and reading more about the Underground Railroad, you may find these books both informative and inspirational. Ask the librarian at your school or public library for these and other books about the Underground Railroad.

**Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt** by Deborah Hopkinson with illustrations by James Ransome (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY, 1993) This fictional story is about Clara, a seamstress in the Big House who knows that she is better off than the slaves who work the fields. But slavery has separated Clara from her mother, and she can never be happy without her.

Clara dreams that they will be reunited one day and run away together - north to freedom. Then Clara hears two slaves talking about how they could find the Underground Railroad if only they had a map. In a flash of inspiration, she sees how to use the cloth in her scrap bag to sew a map of the land - a freedom quilt - that no master will ever suspect is a map to freedom.

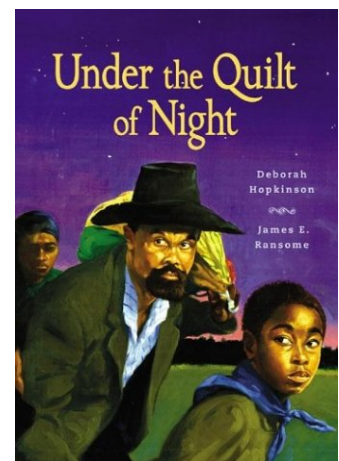


**The Secret to Freedom** by Marcia K. Vaughan with illustrations by Larry Johnson (Lee & Low Books, New York, NY, 2001). This fictional story is about Lucy. After Lucy's parents are sold off the plantation, her older brother, Albert, tells her about the Underground Railroad. He explains that different patchwork quilt patterns provide secret messages to help escaping slaves and the two of them become involved in helping others find their way to freedom.

After a serious beating, Albert runs away and Lucy doesn't know his fate. After the Civil War, she becomes a teacher and marries. Then one day, she receives a scrap of fabric in the mail from her brother in Canada. He is alive and well and bringing his family to visit her.

Under the quilt of night a young slave girl leads her loved ones away from the slave master who worked them: "hoeing and picking, / mending and sewing, / till my hands got raw."

In this sequel to *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*, the author, Deborah Hopkinson uses the rhythm of verse to echo the drumming of the slaves' feet as they travel along the Underground Railroad in pre-Civil War times.



**Other children's books of interest:**

Ayres, Katherine. North By Night: A Story of the Underground Railroad.

Munjo, F.N. The Drinking Gourd.

Petry, Ann. Harriet Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad.

Smucker, Barbara. Underground to Canada.

Ringgold, Faith. Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky.

Winter, Jeannette. Follow the Drinking Gourd.

**Websites:**

<http://www.osblackhistory.com/>

This website is dedicated to the black history of Owen Sound, Ontario.

<http://city.owen-sound.on.ca/cairnproject.htm>

This website is filled with rich information about the Owen Sound Cairn.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad/>

You are a slave in Maryland in the 1800s. Can you escape? Learn what challenges slaves faced in **National Geographic's Underground Railroad** adventure.

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngexplorer/0301/adventures/>

This on-line magazine gives you a chance to experience the Underground Railroad.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/fieldtrp/socstu/explore.htm>

This is an internet field trip.

<http://www.slaveryinamerica.org/>

A complete history

The Underground Railroad Table of Contents

<http://education.ucdavis.edu/new/stc/lesson/socstud/railroad/contents.htm>

Harriet Tubman

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=159>

Levi Coffin: President of The Underground Railroad

[http://www.indianahistory.org/pop\\_hist/people/coffin.html](http://www.indianahistory.org/pop_hist/people/coffin.html)

Information about the Underground Railroad originated on

<http://www.africanhertour.org/> an outstanding website called *Follow the North Star*.

The website provides extensive information about Ontario's role in its history

Information on the history of the Cairn, the colour explanations on how to create the patterns, the history of the Quilt Code and other explanation found herein, originated from the works of Professor Lynda Colgan at Queens University.

Information about *The Quilt Code* originated in *Hidden In Plain View. A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railway* by Raymond Dobard and Jacqueline L.Tobin.

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT QUILTS

Avery, Kristin. (1994). *The Crazy Quilt*. Glenview, IL: Good Year Books.

Blood, Charles, & Link Martin. (1990). *The Goat in the Rug*. New York: Aladdin.

Bolton, Jane. (1994). *My Grandmother's Patchwork Quilt*. New York: Delacorte.

Brown, Craig. (1989). *Patchwork Farmer*. New York: Greenwillow.

Coerr, Eleanor. (1989). *The Josephina Story Quilt*. New York: HarperCollins.

Ernst, Lisa. (1983). *Sam Johnson & the Blue Ribbon Quilt*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

Flournoy, Valerie. (1985). *The Patchwork Quilt*. New York: Scholastic.

Friedman, Aileen. (1994). *A Cloak for the Dreamer*. New York: Scholastic.

Guback, Georgia. (1994). *Luka's Quilt*. New York: Greenwillow.

Howard, Ellen. (1996) *The Log Cabin Quilt*. New York: Holiday House.

Hopkinson, Deborah. (1993). *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*. New York: Knopf.

Irons, Calvin. (1993). *Baby Bear's Quilt*. San Francisco: Mimosas.

Johnston, Tony. (1985). *The Quilt Story*. New York: Putnam Sons.

Jonas, Ann. (1984). *The Quilt*. New York: Greenwillow.

Lyons, M. (1993). *Stitching Stars: The Story Quilts of Harriet Powers*. New York: Scribner's Sons.

Martin, Jacqueline. (1988). *Bizzy Bones and the Lost Quilt*. New York: Lothrop.

Mill, Lauren. (1991). *Rag Coat*. Boston: Little, Brown.

Parton, Dollie. (1994). *Coat of Many Colours*. New York: HarperCollins.

Paul, Ann Whitford. (1996). *The Seasons Sewn: A Year in Patchwork Alphabet*. New York: HarperCollins.

Paul, Ann Whitford. (1991). *Eight Hands Round: A Patchwork Alphabet*. New York: HarperCollins.

Polacco, Patricia. (1988). *The Keeping Quilt*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Polacco, Patricia. (1990). *Just Plain Fancy*. New York: Bantam.

Ringgold, Faith. (1991). *Tar Beach*. New York: Crown.

Ringgold, Faith. (1992). *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky*. New York: Crown.

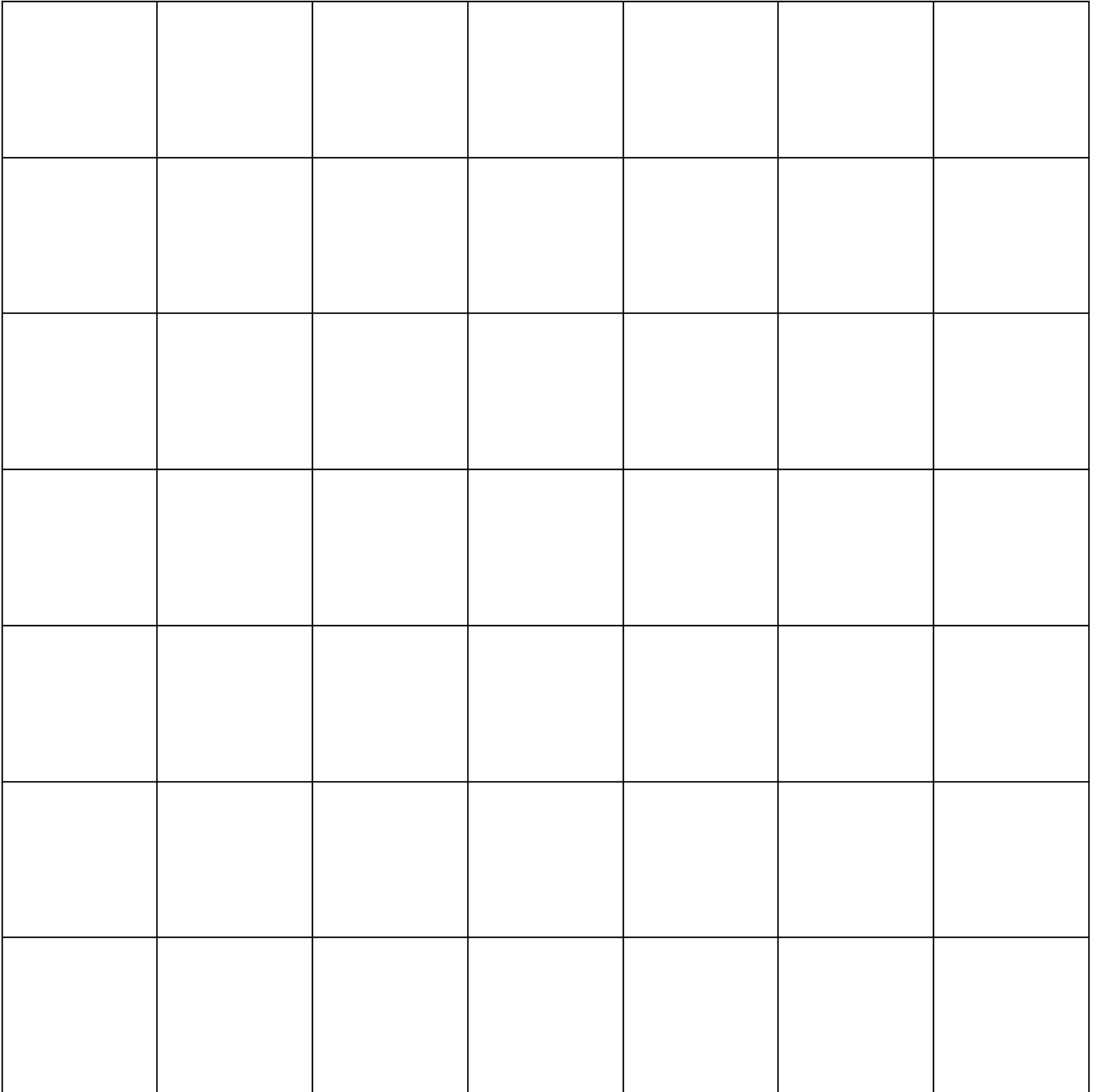
Smucker, Barbara. (1995). *Selina and the Bear Paw Quilt*. Toronto: Lester Publishing Company.

Whelan, Gloria. (1992). *Bringing the Farmhouse Home*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Yolen, Jane. (1994). *Old Dane Counterpane*. New York: Philomel Books.

Zagwyn, Deborah Turney. (1990). *The Pumpkin Blanket*. Berkeley, CA: Celestial Arts.

Zerner, Amy. & Zerner, Jessie. (1995). *The Dream Quilt*. Boston: Charles E. Tuttle.



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## Quilt Codes Summary Sheet



**Flying Geese:** A signal to follow the direction of the flying geese as they migrated north in the spring. Most slaves escaped during the spring; along the way, the flying geese could be used as a guide to find water, food and places to rest. The quilt maker had flexibility with this pattern as it could be used in any quilt. It could also be used as a compass where several patterns are used together.



**North Star:** A signal with two messages--one to prepare to escape and the other to follow the North Star to freedom in Canada. North was the direction of traffic on the Underground Railroad. This signal was often used in conjunction with the song, "Follow the Drinking Gourd", which contains a reference to the Big Dipper constellation. Two of the Big Dipper's points lead to the North Star.



**Monkey Wrench:** A signal to gather all the tools required for the fleeing slave's journey, meaning the physical tools, as well as the mental and spiritual ones.



**Sailboat:** A signal that either a body of water was nearby or that boats were available.



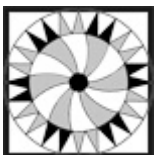
**Drunkard's Path:** A warning signal to take a zigzag route to elude pursuing slave hunters and their hounds that are in the area. A slave spotted traveling south, for instance, would not be suspected of escaping.



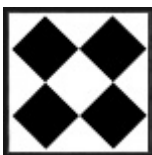
**Dresden Wheel:** It is possible that the Dresden Plate could be a variation of the Wagon Wheel. Records indicate that the Dresden Plate quilt pattern did not emerge until the 1920s.



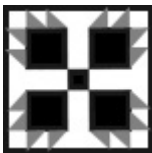
**Wagon Wheel/Carpenter's Wheel:** A signal to the slave to pack the items needed to travel by wagon or that could be used while traveling. It could also mean to pack the provisions necessary for survival, as if packing a wagon for a long journey, or to actually load the wagon in preparation for escape. Some records indicate this symbol meant a wagon with hidden compartments in which slaves could conceal themselves, would soon be embarking for the trip to freedom.



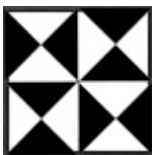
**Wagon Wheel Variation:**



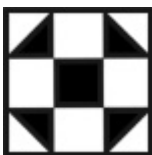
Crossroads: A symbol referring to Cleveland, Ohio, which was the main crossroads with several routes to freedom. On a less literal level, the term “crossroads” also means reaching a turning point in one’s life, where a choice must be made and then carry on.



Bear's Paw: Follow a mountain trail, out of view, and then follow an actual bear’s trail which would lead to water and food.



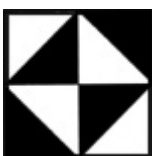
Bow Tie (or Hourglass): A symbol indicating it was necessary to travel in disguise or to change from the clothing of a slave to those of a person of higher status.



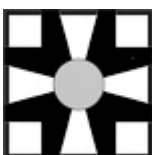
Shoofly: A symbol that possibly identifies a person who can guide and help; a person who helped slaves escape along the Underground Railroad and who knew the codes.



Tumbling Blocks or Boxes: A symbol indicating it was time for slaves to pack up and go, that a conductor was in the area.



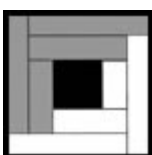
Broken Dishes: A symbol referring to a signal that involved broken crockery at some future landmark.



Britches: A symbol indicating the escaping slave needed to dress as a free person.



Rose Wreath: A symbol that indicated someone had died on the journey. It was an African tradition to leave floral wreaths on the graves of deceased.



Log Cabin: A symbol in a quilt or that could be drawn on the ground indicating it was necessary to seek shelter or that a person is safe to speak with. Some sources say it indicated a safe house along the Underground Railroad.

## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD CODES

**Abolitionist** - a person who demanded immediate emancipation of slaves

**Agent** - coordinator, one who plotted the course of escape and made contacts

**Drinking Gourd** - Big Dipper and the North Star



**Freedom Train or Gospel Train** - code name for the Underground Railroad

**Heaven or Promised Land** - Canada

**Moses** - Harriet Tubman

**Preachers** - leaders/speakers of the Underground Railroad

**Pharaoh** - Slave owner

**Shepherds** - people who escorted the slaves

**Station** - place of safety and temporary refuge, a safe house

**Station Master** - the keeper of a safe house

**Stockholder** - donor of money, clothing, or food to the Underground Railroad

## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD CODE PHRASES

**"The wind blows from the south today"** - the warning of slave bounty hunters nearby

**"A friend with friends"** - A password used to signal the arrival of fugitives with an Underground Railroad conductor

**"The friend of a friend sent me"** - A password used by fugitives traveling alone to indicate they were sent by the Underground Railroad network

**Load of potatoes, parcel, or bundles of wood** - fugitives to be expected

## HISTORICAL WORDS AND PHRASES

- **big house:** the slave owner's home
- **dear:** expensive make water: urinate
- **massa:** a slaveholder usually expected his slaves to call him "master." Massa was a deliberate misuse or corruption of the term, used by slaves to diminish the respect "master" commands.
- **overseer:** a person who directed or supervised the work of slaves; sometimes called a "slave driver" because of the harsh treatment he inflicted



- **privy:** an outhouse
- **skiff:** a small, flat-bottomed boat
- **Slave catchers:** white men paid by slave owners to track and capture runaway slaves within and beyond the local area. Patrollers or "paddyrollers" were another threat to escaping slaves. Patrollers were hired by communities to police the plantation countryside.
- **Steal away...:** an example of a slave song. While songs provided comfort and entertainment, many were sung to pass along messages about secret meetings and escape plans.

