

The bobbin girl; Minty: a story of young Harriet Tubman; Secret signs: along the underground railroad: Barefoot: escape on the underground railroad; Pony express

underground railroad: Barefoot: escape on the underground railroad; Pony express:)

Citation metadata

Author: Rosemary Chance
Date: May-June 1997
From: Emergency Librarian(Vol. 24, Issue 5)
Publisher: E L Kurdyla Publishing LLC
Document Type: Article
Length: 1,863 words

Main content

Article Preview :

PAST EVENTS AFFECT ALL OF US. Some events affect us immediately, such as the death of a loved one killed in war. Other events affect the way we live our lives. The effects of history are difficult to explain to young children. At least through picture books young readers can meet lively people from the past, who have performed heroic deeds and become well-known heroes or unsung heroes. Children can gain a sense of what it was like to live long ago. Pictures and text come together in the following 11 highly recommended picture books to give young children a glimpse of significant events and people in 19th century America. Reading about the past can begin to open children's eyes to their heritage.

We'll begin with a story about a 10-year-old girl working in a textile mill in Lowell, Massachusetts in the 1830s. In *The bobbin girl* by Emily Arnold McCully, Rebecca takes her wages home each Saturday to her widowed mother. Working conditions in the mills are harsh: humid, lint-filled air; 13-hour days; noise; and low pay. When Judith, a young woman whom Rebecca admires, leads the others to strike in protest of a pay cut, Rebecca finds the courage to join them. McCully's predominantly blue-and-green watercolors with pastel highlights captures the hectic life style of these determined young women of Lowell, Massachusetts.

Some 20 years later, another brave young woman emerges to make her mark on America. Harriet Tubman was born in the 1820s, and her story as a young slave girl is found in *Minty: A story of young Harriet Tubman* written by Alan Schroeder and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Minty's life of hardships as a slave is simply and movingly told. She is banished from the house to work in the fields and to remove muskrats caught in traps. Minty suffers a whipping when she's caught freeing the muskrats instead of giving them to Sanders, the overseer. Escape is continually on her mind. Brief reference is made to Minty's destiny to begin the underground railroad in 1850. Pinkney's beautiful style of artwork rendered in colored pencils and watercolor combine warm browns and cool greens to support this touching portrayal of the life of a young slave girl who grows up to be an admired American woman.

Two other titles provide tales of what it was like to help free slaves and what it was like to be a slave looking for freedom. *Secret signs: Along the underground railroad* by Anita Riggio reflects the danger of helping slaves and the risk to both whites and blacks. Luke is a deaf child who must go to the general store by himself and make contact with a girl in an indigo shawl. Watched carefully by a slave catcher, Luke is able to give the...

[Access from your library](#)

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Source Citation

Source Citation

Chance, Rosemary. "19th c. America reflected in picture books (The bobbin girl; Minty: a story of young Harriet Tubman; Secret signs: along the underground railroad: Barefoot: escape on the underground railroad; Pony express!)." *Emergency Librarian*, vol. 24, no. 5, 1997, p. 64,66. Accessed 28 Nov. 2020.

Gale Document Number: GALE|A30070437

Explore

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

[Access from your library](#)

Footer

- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

New deals hatch every day! Harriet Tubman. Conductor on the Underground Railroad. Ann Petry. This book is for. The children were too young to understand the meaning of the stories and yet they were frightened, standing motionless, listening to her, and shivering even if the sun was hot. The mothers of these children worked in the fields. A few of them, like Old Rit, worked in or around the Big House. Independent Reading A Guide to Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad Ann Petry "On my Underground Railroad, I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger." Background Copyright © Holt, Rinehart and Winston. All rights reserved. The Book at a Glance This is a biography of a heroic woman who led more than three hundred people out of slavery into freedom. The writer brings Harriet Tubman to life in a narrative that imagines conversations and thoughts but also includes facts, anecdotes, and quotations from contemporary accounts and newspaper articles. Most chapter Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman is a 1996 Children's picture book by Alan Schroeder and illustrator Jerry Pinkney. It is a fictionalised story of Harriet Tubman as a young girl. School Library Journal, in a review of Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman, wrote "This beautifully illustrated and moving fictional story can be used to introduce Harriet Tubman and the injustice of slavery to young audiences." and noted "Pinkney's illustrations are outstanding, even when compared to his other fine Harriet Tubman cautiously watched the shore from one of three gunboats on the Combahee River. She and several hundred Union soldiers were preparing a raid to free hundreds of enslaved people from plantations in South Carolina, part of the Confederate states that were fighting against the Union during the Civil War of 1861 to 1865. Enemy soldiers were hiding nearby—success was far from guaranteed. Harriet Tubman is well known for risking her life as a "conductor" in the Underground Railroad, which led escaped enslaved people to freedom in the North. But the former enslaved woman also served as What is the underground railroad? a network of secret routes and safe houses used by slaves in the United States to escape to freedom. What is the Fugitive Slave Law Act and WHO does it apply to? a harsh Federal law passed in 1850 stating that fugitives who escaped from slavery to free states could be forced to return to their owners and it made it a crime for a free person to help fugitives or prevent their return. What type of story is "Harriet Tubman"? a biography. At the first stop (a farmhouse where they are usually welcome), why does the man turn them away? Why does Harriet Tubman plan the escapes for Saturday night? Reward posters couldn't be printed on Sunday Slave hunters were off hunting animals or in religious services on Sunday.