

from *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* by Ann Petry

Directions: Each question (except number 5) has at least two parts to it. For any multiple choice question, circle the letter of the answer for each part. Some questions are one part multiple choice and one part short answer and have been split into “A” and “B” to show they are two parts of the same question. For questions that are entirely short answer (numbers 5-8), answer the two parts of each question by putting an “A” in front of the first part of your answer and a “B” in front of your second part of the answer.

- 1A. Which word best describes the mood that is developed on page 558?
- A. angry
  - B. mysterious
  - C. depressing
  - D. thrilling
- 1B. Write at least two to three different words or phrases (not full sentences) from that page that the author uses to create that mood.
- 2A. Based on the details Petry gives the reader, how did the slaves being discovered missing on Sunday impact the effectiveness of the “machinery of pursuit” and the journey?
- A. Slaves often didn't have to work on Sundays.
  - B. It made very little difference what day the slaves were found missing.
  - C. It made the process of pursuit easier because those who were tracking them down had an extra day to plan.
  - D. It slowed down process of pursuit because slaves had a head start on the trackers.
- 2B. Which piece of textual evidence best helps to prove your answer above?
- A. “Yet, when morning came, they invariably discovered that a group of the finest slaves had taken to their heels” (Petry 558).
  - B. “Unfortunately, the discovery was almost always made on a Sunday” (Petry 558).
  - C. “The posters offering rewards for fugitives could not be printed until Monday” (Petry 558-559).
  - D. “Harriet Tubman could have told them that there was...far more involved than matter of waiting for a clear night when the North Star was visible” (Petry 559).
- 3A. Why does it seem ironic that the men who hunted fugitives for money said prayers with their families on Sundays?
- 3B. Which of the following examples from the text is *not* really ironic ?
- A. The fact that Harriet is leading the slaves to a place that she has never been to herself.
  - B. The fact that some of the slaves thought it was easier to be a slave than to go on trying to escape.
  - C. The time that she threatened to shoot a man she was leading to freedom if he went back.
  - D. The fact that they traveled mostly at night instead of by day.

- 4A. Why would Tubman threaten to shoot a fugitive who wanted to return to the plantation?
- A. She believed they would risk betraying the entire Underground Railroad if they got back.
  - B. She knew that someone who wanted to return would slow the group down and risk everyone else's safety.
  - C. She believed it would be bad for the group's morale for someone to want to return.
  - D. She was worried that they would get lost and not make it back alive.

4B. What quote from the text best illustrates that reasoning (to threaten to shoot them)?

5. While each of the stories that Tubman tells throughout the journey is meant to motivate those she is leading, what **specific purpose** does each of the following stories told **strategically** throughout the journey have? (In other words, why would Harriet Tubman tell *each* of these stories to the people she is leading to freedom? How is each one specifically motivating? Consider *what* the stories express and *when* she tells each one.) Match the story she tells with the reason for it by writing the letter of the reason on the line that follows the page numbers of each story.

- Harriet's story (559 col 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Thomas Garrett's story (561) \_\_\_\_\_
  - William and Ellen Craft's and Fredrick Douglass stories (563 col 1-2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Middle Passage and Thomas Sims stories (565 col 1-2) \_\_\_\_\_
- A. to discourage the runaways from wanting to turn back by showing what would happen if they returned
- B. to inspire them for the journey by making them desire their freedom even more and thereby making the hardships of the journey that lie ahead seem worth the effort
- C. to help them to overcome overwhelming disappointment they had just experienced and to encourage them to carry on by giving them something to look forward to
- D. to remind them of why they are on the journey and to reinvigorate them to move forward at a renewed pace

6. A primary source is a first-hand account of a topic. Yale University's website defines a primary source as a document that is created by witnesses or recorders who experienced the events. Primary sources can be either created at the time when the events are occurring or they can be recorded later. For example, Petry includes a part of William Still's *The Underground Railroad* as a primary source on page 566. Go back to the "Go On or Die" section of the text and name one more primary source used/mentioned by Petry. Why would Petry add primary sources to her text? (In other words, what purpose do they serve?)

7. Based on key events in the text, determine the theme of *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad*. Support that theme with specific textual evidence.

8. There are several details in this narrative that Petry could never have known to be 100% fact. Find an example of one such detail in the "Go On or Die" section, and then explain how/why the author could not have known that detail.