

LI: To infer an author or musician's choice of language



I can make links between the choice of text and illustrations to a period in history



I know who the key figures were and what they did



I understand the importance of the Underground Railroad



Looking again at this page of the book, have a think about the following questions...

Why is Libba sat on a train track?

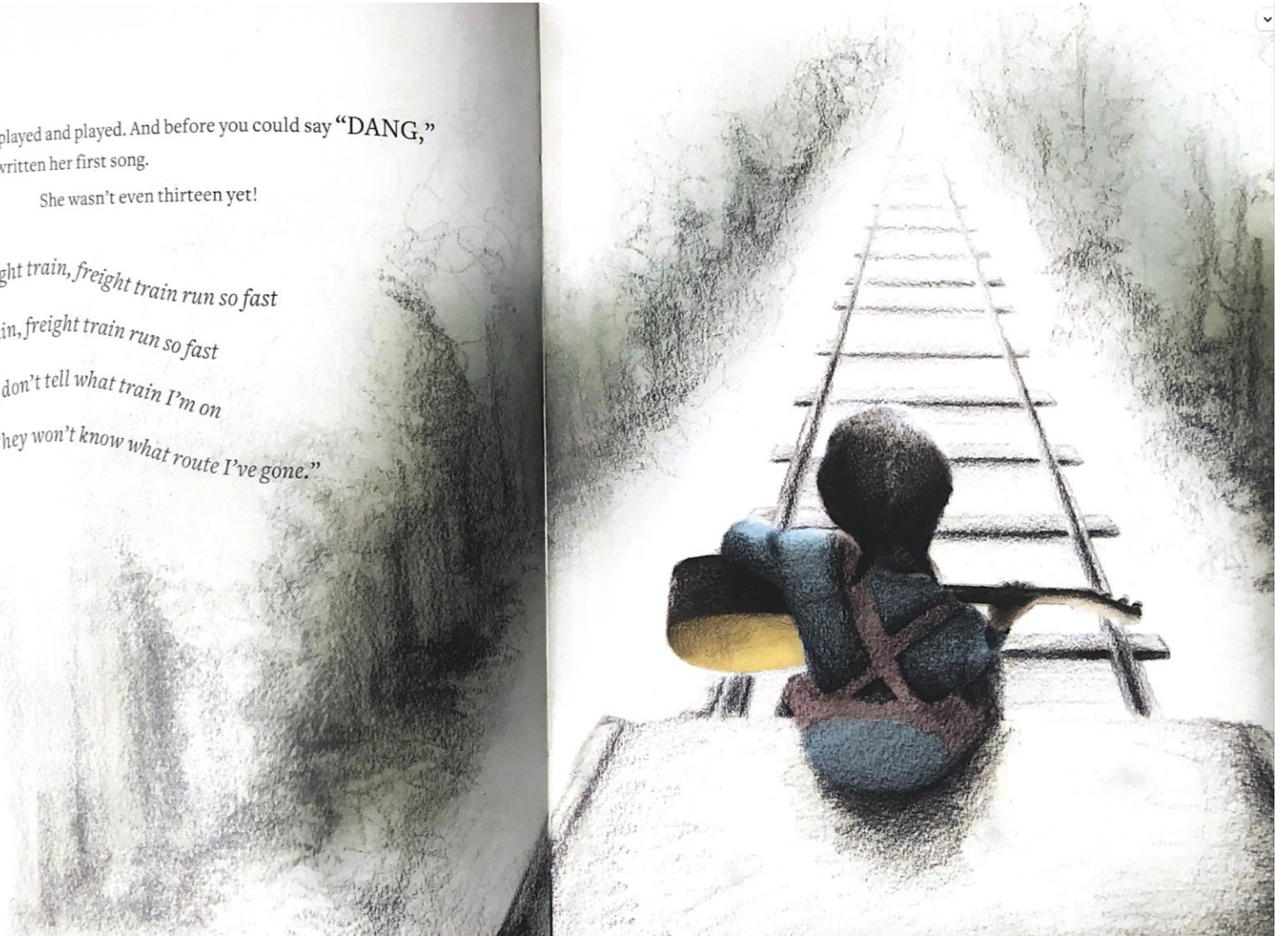
Why was Libba's first song about trains?

What might trains symbolise for a young black child growing up in North America the late 19th century?

Libba played and played. And before you could say "DANG,"
she'd written her first song.

She wasn't even thirteen yet!

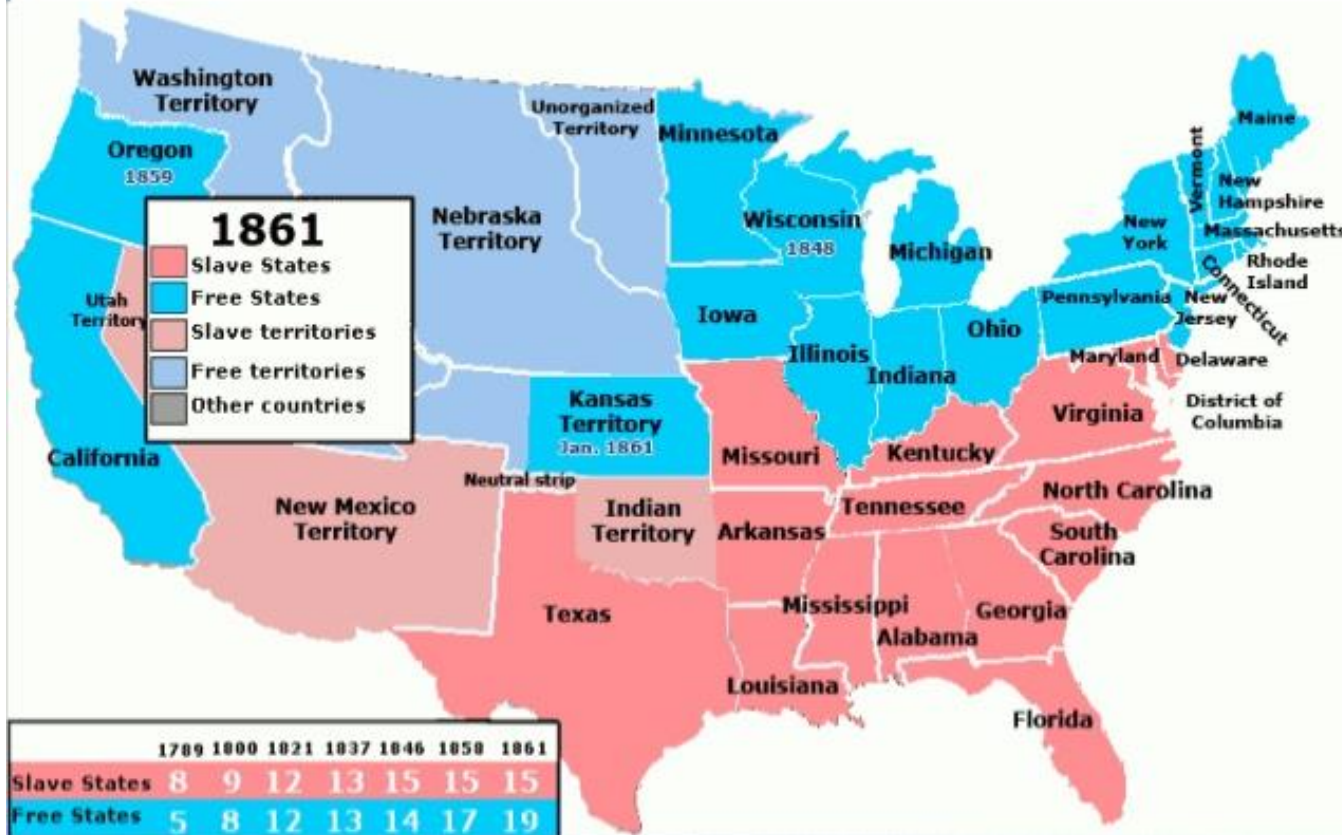
*"Freight train, freight train run so fast
Freight train, freight train run so fast
Please don't tell what train I'm on
They won't know what route I've gone."*





Lets look back at what we have learnt in previous weeks to try and gain a greater understanding...

Slave states v. Free states



As we know, in the early to mid 19th century most northern states had banned slavery (**free states**) however, in a lot of southern states it was still allowed (**slave states**).

Have a look at the map showing free states vs slave states.

What do you think many slaves living in southern states wanted to do?



Underground Railroad



Underground Railroad was created.
This wasn't actually a railroad it is a
name given to the early 19th century
secret movement to help black slaves
escape from slave states to free states
so they could live freely.



The Underground Railroad was a network of routes and safe houses that were used to escape out of slave states. Various railway terms were used in this movement to describe components of the system.

People who guided slaves to a railroad were called '**agents**' and those transporting them were called '**conductors**'. Hiding places along the route were called '**stations**', the owners of these hiding places were called '**station masters**' and the escaped slaves were called '**passengers**'



If you did not get a chance to in our previous lessons, please watch this short video on the life of **Harriet Tubman**. An escaped slave who went back to help others escape through the Underground Railroad.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVI-JNa9Cu8>

These are other good links to help you learn more about the Underground Railroad.

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Underground-Railroad/353882>

<https://www.historyforkids.net/underground-railroad.html>

https://kids.kiddle.co/Underground_Railroad

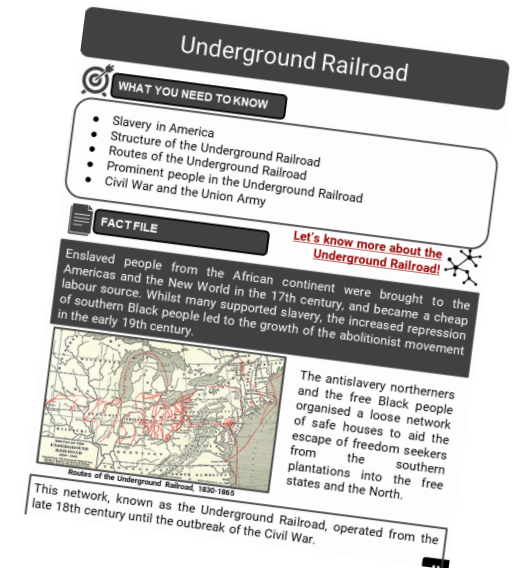
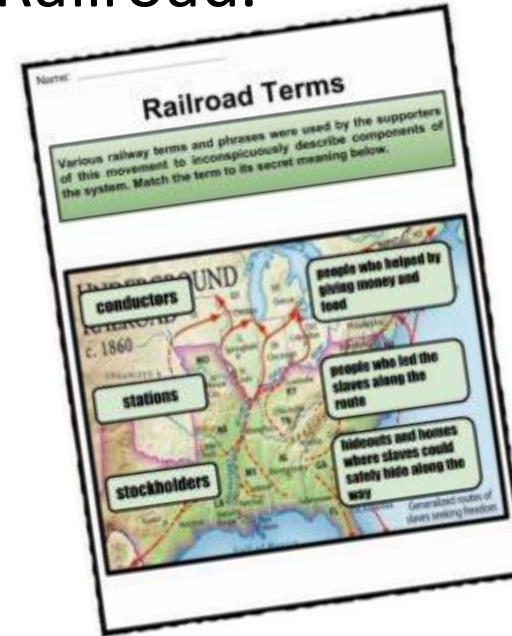


Task 1...

Create a fact file on the Underground Railroad.

Think about the following key points...

- Why it was created
- How did it work?
- Who or what was involved?
- Who were the key figures?



Harriet Tubman

- Key Terms**
- key
 - abolitionist
 - slavery
 - network
 - suffrage

Harriet Tubman was a key figure in the Civil War. As an abolitionist, someone who opposed and fought against slavery, she rescued over 70 slaves and successfully brought them to freedom. She was born with the name Araminta Ross. Later, she took the name Harriet Tubman and then earned the nickname 'Moses' for saving so many people from slavery.



Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland. She suffered as a slave but eventually escaped to Philadelphia. Upon achieving freedom, she went back to help free her friends and family, risking her freedom and her life. She helped free slaves through the network of safe houses called the "Underground Railroad." She also helped John Brown prepare for his raid on Harper's Ferry. Harriet Tubman was the first woman to lead armed forces for the Union in a raid during the Civil War.

Interesting Facts:

- The Underground Railroad was not really a railroad but many houses that would hide runaway slaves in their escape to freedom.
- One way that slaves knew that a house was part of the Underground Railroad was a quilt hanging in a window.
- Harriet Tubman even worked as a spy for the Union during the Civil War!



Task 2...

Now we know a bit more on what trains and railroads symbolised. Have a go at writing down your answers to these questions...

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Why was Libba's first song about trains?

What might trains symbolise for a young black child growing up in North America the late 19th century?

