

# Harriet Tubman

I am writing this on the day that America swears in their new president, one who is tearing down the wall President Trump started to build on America's border with Mexico. It seems like a good day to write about an American woman who believed in the right for all people to be treated equally, regardless of the colour of their skin. Harriet Tubman died more than one hundred years ago, but she is an important woman to remember because she escaped slavery, and more importantly, she rescued hundreds of other slaves.

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Maryland. Slavery was still legal in parts of America then, but Harriet wanted more from her life. Sometimes it was possible for slaves to be given freedom, but it did not happen very often. Harriet decided to take the chance to escape from her slave master and she travelled over one hundred miles on foot, to Philadelphia. In Philadelphia, slavery was no longer legal and a safe place for black slaves to escape to. Can you imagine travelling one hundred miles when the whole way people are trying to find you and punish you for leaving? This goes to show how desperate the life of a slave was.

Harriet is known for using the "Underground Railroad" which was a route that was used by slaves wanting to escape slavery in the south, to cross into the safe areas that were north of a line called the "Mason Dixon Line". North of that line were the states where slaves could be free people, that is why a lot of the slaves wanted to travel north. Along the way, there were probably safe houses, places where slaves could go to for food and shelter without the owners of the houses reporting them for escaping. Harriet's life story was written by Sarah Hopkins Bradford and Harriet told Sarah, *"When I found I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything; the sun came like gold through the trees, and over the fields, and I felt like I was in Heaven."*

When she was a twelve, it is reported that she was hit on the head with a two-pound lead weight. The weight was not meant to hit her, but another slave who was being punished. Her head was badly injured, and she suffered from headaches and seizures for the rest of her life. Despite this injury, Harriet made it to north of the line, but she felt it was so important to get more slaves free, that she travelled back over the line into danger. During a ten-year span she accomplished 19 trips back and forth and escorted over 300 slaves to freedom and she did not lose one.

Harriet is quoted as saying:

*"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."*

This quote is as true today as it was back then. Below is my drawing of Harriet Tubman.

**Jacob Adedeji, Y6**

Handwritten text in the top left corner, possibly a date or page number.

Adejola

