



What Was the Underground Railroad?

Yona Zeldis McDonough , Lauren Mortimer (Illustrations) , James Bennett (Illustrations)

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No one knows where the term *Underground Railroad* came from--there were no trains or tracks, only "conductors" who helped escaping slaves to freedom. Including real stories about "passengers" on the "Railroad," this book chronicles slaves' close calls with bounty hunters, exhausting struggles on the road, and what they sacrificed for freedom. With 80 black-and-white illustrations throughout and a sixteen-page black-and-white photo insert, the Underground Railroad comes alive!

What Was the Underground Railroad? Details

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Author : Yona Zeldis McDonough , Lauren Mortimer (Illustrations) , James Bennett (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review What Was the Underground Railroad? for online ebook

Jocelin says

Incredibly informative and easy to read.

Lizzie says

This book gives you a lot of interesting information about the Underground Railroad and includes pictures and a map to show different routes to freedom. I defiantly recommend this book:)

Ben says

I liked how this was a very good quick read. I liked how it switched from different stories about escaping slaves. It was cool to learn about a very important time in history. It gave you a lot of information about the underground railroad. I recommend this book to anyone who likes Who Was books or learning about american history.

Mariah says

I love reading the "Who Was..." and "What Was..." books, even as an adult. This story was really interesting and I learned about some people (who I had never heard of before) that escaped slavery. One person escaped by being mailed in a giant box to the North. Also, I had no idea how involved Quakers were in helping people escape slavery. That is something you never read about.

I planned to read a lot more of these books :)

Dee Price says

This book provides a detailed and comprehensive history of the Underground Railroad. It includes background information about the beginning of slavery and the Underground Railroad including: the purpose of the Underground Railroad, some of the people whi were involved in it, and the Underground Railroad's path to freedom rights for African Americans. This book also includes primary sources such as photographs and maps.

Andrea says

I've read a few of these What Was or Who Was books, and they are usually a wonderful way to introduce kids to people or places or situations in history. However, Catherine did find some incorrect info in one of the books. She recommended this one to me because she said that normally, these books are pretty easy for her, but this one, she learned quite a bit from.

Connor Anthony says

The Underground Railroad by Yona Zeldis McDonough a lit pf slaves escape to freedom. The railroad was bot a train, it was a bunch of people who were against slavery that wanted to help. They hung out lanterns and quilts to show escaping north they provided a safe place to get rest and food.

I liked it because it teaches you about history and what they did to escape.

I'd recommend this to history lovers.

Lawrence says

this was a shockingly informative read given the amount of schooling i've been through. i saw this in a neighborhood free library and wanted to give it to my nephew, but wanted to make sure it was good before passing it along. a colorful, accurate, yet appropriate, real, and powerful account of some of the highlights of the history of slavery, the underground, and abolition in the u.s.

Michelle Christensen says

Fascinating! The book was a brief overview of the Underground Railroad. I really wanted more details about it than the book gave. The book said that because those in the system didn't keep notes, perhaps that's why the book was sketchy on details. It contained about a few chapters on interesting escape stories such as Harriet Tubman, The Crafts, Henry "Box" Brown, and one or two others. I enjoyed the short bio sketches.

Marie says

"What Was the Underground Railroad?" is a well written and interesting middle reader about the history of slavery in the US and some of the means used to escape slavery. Along with the general history of slavery and what is known of the underground railroad, the book includes several individuals' stories of escape and escape enabling.

I read this out loud to my six-year-old after he took an interest in the song "Follow the Drinking Gourd" at a music recital and wanted to know what it was about. An explanation of the drinking gourd is given in this book.

Faith R says

I thought this book was pretty good but I knew some of the stuff in the book about the underground railroad already so if there was new facts and information that I would have liked the book a little but more.

Mary Thomas says

I've read several of the "Who Was...?" books, but this was my first "What Was...?" I was impressed! My 4th graders love how fast-paced these are, and they are excited to count the What Was books toward their informational genre requirement. I consider myself well-acquainted with the Underground Railroad, but I learned lots of new information and stories.

Chance S says

this is a great book if you want to learn about slavery and ways they escaped slavery.

Chase says

I liked reading this book. I like how it includes maps, and how it had actual pictures in the center of the book of Harriet Tubman and others. The black and white drawings in the book were really clear. It had interesting chapters about the slaves who escaped. I wanted to keep reading it, so I read it over and over again and had some good conversations with my parents afterward.

Amity says

Kaye and I enjoyed reading this book. I imagine that I am less cautious than some other parents about making history palatable for my daughter. While I really enjoyed learning about specific stories and the logistics of the underground railroad, I would have liked the book to be more explicit in speaking about slavery and the racism that has permeated the US from the very beginning. I cried dear the end and had to explain to Kaye how deeply sad it makes me that equality is still an ideal that many people don't see as possible or important. We talked about the need for the Black Lives Matter Movement and the refusal of some to see the sociohistoric links that perpetuate racism, both structural and unconscious, today.
