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## Study Guide: *Harriet Tubman Herself*

### A One-Woman Journey Toward Freedom

Adapted by Morna Murphy Martell

Based on *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* by Sarah Bradford

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### About the Show

*Harriet Tubman Herself* is a powerful one-woman performance that brings to life the incredible true story of Harriet Tubman—an American hero, abolitionist, and freedom fighter. Through dramatic storytelling, reimagined spirituals, and historically based dialogue, Harriet shares her memories, her struggles, and her unshakable determination to lead others to freedom.

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### What to Expect

- **One actress** portraying Harriet Tubman in multiple stages of her life
  - **Original and traditional music** inspired by African American spirituals
  - **Real stories** from Harriet's life, adapted from her 1868 biography
  - A blend of **history, emotion, and inspiration** that educates and empowers
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### Historical Background

#### Who was Harriet Tubman?

- Born into slavery around 1822 in Maryland
  - Escaped slavery and returned to help more than 70 others to freedom
  - Worked as a spy, scout, cook, and nurse during the Civil War
  - Spoke publicly for women's rights and racial equality after the war
  - Passed away in 1913 and is remembered as one of the most courageous Americans in history
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## Key Themes

- **Freedom and Resistance**
  - **Courage and Leadership**
  - **Sacrifice and Service**
  - **Hope and Spiritual Strength**
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## Critical Thinking Questions

1. What motivated Harriet Tubman to risk her life for others, even after she gained her own freedom?
  2. How did Harriet use music and spirituals in her journey?
  3. What obstacles did Harriet face, and how did she overcome them?
  4. Why is it important to share Harriet Tubman's story today?
  5. In what ways can one person still make a difference in the fight for justice?
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## Discussion Prompts

- Share your reaction to Harriet Tubman's bravery. What moment in the performance stood out most to you?
  - Think about someone today who stands up for justice. How are they like Harriet Tubman?
  - If you could ask Harriet Tubman one question, what would it be?
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## Activity Ideas

- **Journal Entry:** Imagine you are a freedom seeker guided by Harriet Tubman. Describe your emotions and experiences on the journey.
  - **Create a Freedom Quilt:** Use symbols to design a quilt square that tells part of Harriet's story or your own ideas about courage.
  - **Musical Reflection:** Choose a spiritual or freedom song. Write what you think it meant to those escaping slavery.
  - **Timeline Challenge:** Research and create a timeline of key events in Harriet Tubman's life and work.
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## Vocabulary Words

Word	Definition
Abolitionist	A person who wanted to end slavery in the United States.
Underground Railroad	A secret network of routes and safe houses that helped enslaved people escape to freedom.
Fugitive	A person who is running away, often from slavery or the law.
Emancipation	The act of being freed from slavery.
Resilience	The ability to recover from hardships or challenges.

**Part 1: Multiple Choice (Circle the correct answer)**

1. Harriet Tubman was born into:
    - a) Freedom
    - b) Royalty
    - c) Slavery
    - d) The military
  2. Harriet Tubman helped enslaved people escape by using:
    - a) A train system
    - b) The Underground Railroad
    - c) A ship from Africa
    - d) Secret codes in books
  3. What inspired this performance's script?
    - a) Harriet's own diary
    - b) A fictional novel
    - c) A newspaper article
    - d) The 1868 biography *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*
  4. During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman worked as a:
    - a) Teacher
    - b) Union spy and nurse
    - c) Politician
    - d) Factory worker
  5. Which of the following is NOT a theme in the show?
    - a) Freedom
    - b) Bravery
    - c) Invention
    - d) Resistance
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**Part 2: True or False (Write T for true or F for false)**

6. \_\_\_ Harriet Tubman helped over 300 people escape slavery.
  7. \_\_\_ The show is performed by six actors in period costumes.
  8. \_\_\_ Spirituals were often used to send secret messages.
  9. \_\_\_ Harriet Tubman stopped helping others after she gained her own freedom.
  10. \_\_\_ Harriet Tubman is remembered as an American hero.
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**Part 3: Short Answer**

11. Why did Harriet Tubman keep returning to the South after escaping slavery?

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12. What were some of the dangers Harriet Tubman faced during her missions?

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13. How does this performance help us understand history better?

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**Bonus Question (Optional):**

14. What would you have done if you were in Harriet Tubman's shoes?

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