

Spiritual Codes Worksheet

Quote from Spirituals	Question	Your Answer
Who are those children all dressed in red?...Must be the children that Moses led?	Who was sometimes referred to as "Moses" by the African-America slaves who used the Underground Railroad?	Harriet Tubman is sometimes referred as Moses
"Wade in the water. Wade in the water, children. Wade in the water."	Words that were repeated in a song were especially important. What kind of instruction for escape might these words suggest and why?	You walked in the creek to lose your scent.
"Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus. Steal away, steal away home. I ain't got long to stay here."	What meaning might these words have if a slave sang this song to family members?	used to alert other slaves that an escape attempt was coming up.
"I looked over Jordan and what did I see, coming for to carry me home."	The Jordan is a river in Biblical lands. What other river would have been important for escaping slaves to cross?	The Mississippi river (also the Ohio river and the St. Lawrence river.)

<p>"If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home, tell all my friends I'm coming too, coming for to <u>carry me home.</u>"</p>	<p>The person saying these words might be planning to use the Underground Railroad. What does he or she mean?</p>	<p>He or she means I'm coming to try the secret paths.</p>
<p>"And you'll possess fair Canaan's land, Let my people go."</p>	<p>Canaan was the land of opportunity promised by God to the Israelites. What place would be the land of opportunity for an African-American slave longing to be free?</p>	<p>Canada is where an African-American are longing to be free.</p>
	<p>What was the Underground Railroad?</p>	<p>The Underground Railroad is a path to freedom.</p>
	<p>What is an African-American spiritual?</p>	<p>An African-American spiritual is a song sang by the slaves about trying to be free.</p>