

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
"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?	The water washed the scent off from being caught by dogs.
"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?	They are being sold to people that make them slaves.
"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?	Mississippi

<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 carry me home."</p>	<p>The person saying these words might be planning to use the Underground Railroad. What does he or she mean?</p>	<p>They are escaping.</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>underground railroad.</p>
	<p>What was the Underground Railroad?</p>	<p>A way to get free</p>
	<p>What is an African-American spiritual?</p>	<p>Song</p>