

"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." (Drake) In 1849, this is how Harriet Tubman felt, she had escaped into freedom, and decided that she wanted to share heaven with all of the slaves she could. (Marszalek, Powell) Tubman was a person who didn't think just of herself, when she felt that first taste of freedom she wanted to share it with the other slaves that were willing to follow her lead. She got involved with the Underground Railroad and put her life at stake to change freedom for slaves forever. While the South wanted to preserve its racially oppressive institution of slavery, Harriet Tubman fought against what the Southern morals at the time were and with Frederick Douglass together they helped spread the word of freedom.

To begin with, Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in the state of Maryland. (Marszalek, Powell) Tubman's master was Edward Brodas, and she was frequently whipped for slacking off while on the job. (math.buffalo.edu) When Harriet was twelve she was hit upon the head, by a brick, thrown by a white man because she didn't tie up and whip another slave that had tried to escape. (Bradford) Harriet's blow would affect the rest of her life and working ability as she would occasionally fall asleep. (math.buffalo.edu) "I grew up like a neglected weed - ignorant of liberty, having no experience of it." (Bradford) At the age of twenty-five she married a free man, John Tubman. Often they would lie awake and Harriet would talk about freedom and the North, and John would reply "If you ran off, I would tell your master." (math.buffalo.edu) In 1849, Harriet left her husband for freedom and fled to Philadelphia. (math.buffalo.edu) Harriet escaped via wagon and when she reached free land she met William Still, a conductor of the Underground Railroad. (Mintz) One could say Harriet's fate was to meet William Still, and forever change the success of the Underground Railroad.

goal refocus

~~In addition~~, the Underground Railroad was a secret system of transportation of slaves into free land. The Underground Railroad's workers were called "conductors" and places that the slaves stayed at, for example a house, was called a "station." (pathways.thinkport.org) The Underground Railroad got its name because trains were just beginning to carry passengers and underground meant it was secretive. (pathways.thinkport.org) The most common underground railroads ran through Ohio and Pennsylvania. (World Book, Inc) Harriet's first excursion back into the South occurred a couple years after her freedom, in 1851. (Marszalek, Powell) Tubman recused her sister and her sister's two young children. (Marszalek, Powell) After one successful freedom, <sup>but</sup> Harriet couldn't settle with just setting three people free, she went back for more.

Overall Tubman made over nineteen trips back into the South and successfully brought back over three hundred slaves. (Marszalek, Powell) Harriet faced enormous danger, if a slave wanted to turn back around because they were scared, she would say "You'll be free or die!" and she held a pistol to their head. (Marszalek, Powell) Also, if Harriet was ever caught helping slaves gain their freedom she would face being beaten, sold back to the South, returned to her master, or even worse, death. (Marszalek, Powell) Harriet was often known as "Moses" or "Moses of her people" because she was the slave's savior. Harriet Tubman was not the only person fighting for freedom in the South; Frederick Douglass was also an abolitionist.

<sup>while</sup> ~~Moreover~~, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman didn't necessarily work side by side but they both fought for the same reason, freedom. Both Douglass and Tubman were born in Maryland and born into slavery. (National Underground Railroad Freedom Center) Tubman gained her freedom by escaping to the North, while Frederick Douglass gained his by dressing up as a sailor and traveling to Delaware by train, then by steamboat to Pennsylvania and from there traveled to New York. (Douglass, Baker) Frederick Douglass's house in New York was on

did they  
even meet  
correspond?

the Underground Railroad and he would often shelter in need slaves. Frederick spoke and wrote his mind into history fighting for the freedom of slaves. "In a composite nation like ours, as before the law, there should be no rich, no poor, no high, no low, no white, no black, but common country, common citizenship, equal rights and a common destiny." (Douglass, Baker)

*As you look  
will his  
significance*

On the other hand, Harriet Tubman was out on the front lines making the Underground Railroad a success. Harriet Tubman made the Underground Railroad a success because she never doubted herself and she never wanted to go back into the life as a slave. The hard life she had as a slave really pushed her in the Underground Railroad and she knew she didn't want others to live that life, she had to go back for the other slaves; to her it just wouldn't be right. "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." (Bradford)

In conclusion, Harriet Tubman fought for her own freedom and fought for others around her. Harriet drove the train that was the Underground Railroad. She put herself back into those painful shoes of the slave's lives, turned right back around from the North and marched down to the South to save the slaves she could. Eventually the war erupted over slavery and the fight Tubman had in her didn't end there; she fought in the Civil War and <sup>lived to</sup> ~~got to~~ see slavery abolished.

(Marszalek, Powell)

*in keeping with her persistent commitment for freedom,*

*- solid job  
- effective use of quotes  
- paper was almost a compare/contrast between Tubman + Douglass and liked this direction more than a straight discussion of Tubman (old story)*

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