



The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom
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Grade/Class/Subject: 3-5 Language Arts

Content Standards:

LA.A.1.2.3 The student uses simple strategies to determine meaning and increase vocabulary for reading.

LA.A.2.1 the student determines the main idea or essential message, identifies the main idea or essential message, identifies relevant supporting details and facts, and arranges events in chronological order.

Content Objective(s): Meets FL STATUTE 1003.42 – *African and African American History and Women’s Contributions to the United States*

Students will show how the author used the patchwork patterns, which were part of the quilt code used by runaway slaves along their journey on the Underground Railroad, to construct the events in the story.

Language Objective(s): Students will relate how key vocabulary words that identify the quilt patterns determine the main idea and supporting details in the story.

Grouping Configurations: Whole class, partners, small groups

Story Synopsis: An exciting story about a girl and her father who escape slavery with help from the coded symbols on a quilt. Shortly after Hannah's sister is sold to another plantation, Mama dies, but not before teaching Hannah how to sew, whispering to her, "...this quilt will show you everything you need to know to run to freedom." Their journey leads them along the Underground Railroad, from their Georgia plantation to a hiding place beneath a church, through pirate tunnels, and eventually to the home of a Quaker family. Finally, they cross Lake Erie into Canada, and the narrative ends on a hopeful note as Hannah makes a new quilt with an empty square for her sister, praying that someday they'll be together again, and free.

<u>Key Vocabulary</u>			<u>Supplementary Materials</u>
freedom	Monkey wrench	Quakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pictures of the patchwork patterns • Construction paper • Patchwork pattern templates • Map of the USA and Canada • Venn diagram
runaway slaves	Wagon wheel	Lake Erie	
pebbles	Bear’s paw	Canada	
planks	Crossroads	safe house	
quilt	Log cabin	slavery	
quilt code	Shoofly	Georgia	
plantation	Bow ties	Ohio	
patchwork pattern	Flying geese		
Underground	Drunkard’s path		
Railroad	North Star		

Introduction: Building Background

- 1) Hold up a copy of the book and ask students to make predictions based on the title and pictures printed on the cover of the book. Tell them the story takes place in the United States during the time of slavery.
- 2) Discuss the concepts of freedom and slavery using key vocabulary words.
- 3) Explain the differences and similarities between a real railway system and the Underground Railroad by completing a Venn diagram together as a class.
- 4) Point out places on a map of North America the places mentioned in the story.

Modeling/Guided Instruction:

- 1) Show pictures of the quilt patterns depicted on the inside cover of the book and explain that these patterns made up the quilt code used by runaway slaves.
- 2) Read the first three pages of the story to show how each pattern introduces a main idea in the story and is also used by the author to create an event that takes place in the story.
- 3) Students will listen to the story
- 4) Using the pattern templates, students will construct their own set of the patchwork patterns out of construction paper.
- 5) Students will divide into groups and summarize the story using the patchwork patterns they have created.

Review/Assessment:

Students will identify the main ideas in the story and sequence the events in the story using the pictures of the patchwork patterns they have constructed.