



You waited breathlessly until the lights went out, pretending to sleep. Careful step by careful step, you crept to the door, avoiding all the sleeping bodies. Outside, all you could see was an inky black sky and millions of twinkling constellations. At the end of the Big Dipper there's one bright star. The North Star.

You knew if you followed The North Star you would be heading to freedom and the Promised Land. You crept forwards into the dark forest, making no sound. Spinning around at the sound of twigs snapping, you saw two glowing eyes. "Phew. Just a deer." As you continued into the depths of the forest, warm yellow sunbeams began to dance between the dense trees. A house caught your eye, just ahead in a clearing. Maybe you could hide there until night fell again?

1 Which star did you need to follow?

\_\_\_\_\_

2 You escaped at night. Find and **copy two phrases** that show this.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

3 *...warm yellow sunbeams began to dance between the dense trees...*

What time of day is this phrase describing?

\_\_\_\_\_



“Steal away, steal away to safety.” Being seen was a risk, but you were desperately thirsty and hungry, so you tentatively stepped forward and waved to the woman singing. She whispered, “Quick, come inside,” as she dragged you into the house and whipped the door closed.

You tucked into the pie Georgina had set in front of you. She looked at you and asked, “If the slavers catch you, do you know what they’ll do?” You drew a line slowly across your neck. But when Georgina asked if you were sure you wanted to continue your daring escape, you nodded. Night fell. Georgina handed you a bundle of bread and cheese, and explained it was 90 miles to the Mason-Dixon line. Only 90 miles to the Promised Land and freedom.

4

Which word below is closest in meaning to *‘tentatively’*? Tick **one**.

cautiously       quickly       nervously       heavily

5

*..She whispered, “Quick, come inside,” as she dragged you into the house and whipped the door closed .*

Choose the best words to match the sentence above. **Circle the correct word** in each line.

Georgina            

as she              you into the house

and              the door closed.



You drew a deep breath, and headed out into the cool blackness - away from the safety of the house. In the distance, you could hear the fierce barking and howling of dogs, and knew it was you they were hunting. Dogs could follow your scent on the ground, so you stepped into the cool river snaking in front of you.

Wading against the strong current, you were forced to drag one leg at a time. It took all your strength but you made it to the opposite bank. You pulled yourself out of the fast moving water. Pushing through the shrubs, with the sunlight warming your wet skin, you heard the beginning of the dawn chorus. You'd made it! You were over the Mason-Dixon line and as free as a bird.

**6** Find and copy a phrase that shows the river was curved and winding.

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**7** Tick **true** or **false** in the following table to show what had happened in the text above.

	True	False
You entered the river so the dogs couldn't follow your scent.	✓	
The river was gentle and slow-moving.		
You swam across the river.		
You had to move slowly, one leg at a time because of the current.		
The sun was shining and the birds singing when you arrived.		

**8** What does '*the dawn chorus*' refer to?

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