

AMERICAN STUDIES SUMMER READING 2023
She Came to Slay: The Life & Times of Harriet Tubman
by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

Guided Reading Questions

Answer each of the following 19 questions in your own words in a Google Doc in 2-5 sentences. Type your response below each question, then submit your completed document through Google Classroom as instructed by Mr. Conners in September.

This is not a group or team assignment - it should be completed independently. Please remember that copying and paraphrasing another student's work is a violation of the honor code and will result in a grade of zero, plus a meeting with Prep Administration. Please don't put yourself into such a precarious position. This assignment is worth 100 points.

PART I: MINTY'S STORY

1. Why does Professor Dunbar use the first 15 pages of the biography to detail "Minty's" ancestors? Why is this family history so important? (4 pts.)
2. In the sections titled **WE ARE FAMILY, CARETAKER, FLESH FOR RENT**, and **THE ULTIMATE LOSS**, in what **FOUR** ways did the Ross family fall victim to "family separation? Can you imagine how this might have affected a loving family? What does this say about enslavers who claim to be Christians? (10 pts.)
3. In the sections titled **HEAD TRAUMA** and **INNERVISIONS**, what happened to Araminta? How did this impact her young life? (4 pts.)
4. In **SAY HER NAME**, how did Araminta Ross become Harriet Tubman? (3)
5. In **LOVE AND MARRIAGE**, how did Harriet attempt to use the law? What crime of the Brodess family did she uncover? (3)
6. Describe Harriet's first experiences with self-emancipation in **THE AUCTION BLOCK** and **SHE'S OUT**. (6)

PART II: SHE AIN'T SORRY

7. What was Philadelphia like for Harriet in **THE CONDUCTOR**? Why was Philadelphia such an important stop on the Underground Railroad? Why did she go to Cape May? (6)
8. In **THE CONDUCTOR**, what prompted Harriet to return to Maryland and lead others to safety? (3)
9. What happened to Harriet in **BETRAYAL**? (3)
10. In **EXPATS**, how does Harriet come to meet Frederick Douglass? How were their stories similar? Why does she end up in Canada? (6)

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11. **WHO YOU GONNA CALL?, SHE CAME TO SLAY**, and **FEARLESS** provide some interesting details of Harriet's process, and some of the important allies she came to know. Explain **THREE** important details from these sections. (6)
12. Explain Harriet's relationship to **WILLIAM SEWARD** and **JOHN BROWN** as detailed in **ANTISLAVERY AGITATOR, HOMEOWNER**, and **THE GENERAL**. (6)
13. In **ONE LAST TIME** and **MY PEOPLE ARE FREE**, in what ways did Harriet continue her work against the evils of enslavement? Describe **TWO**. (6)

PART III: BAWSS LADY

14. In **WAR ZONE, SICK AND TIRED, BLACK MOSES, TO DIE WITH VALOR**, and **FURLOUGH**, Professor Dunbar describes Harriet Tubman's service to the Union against the treasonous Confederates. In your own words, describe the various roles that Harriet undertook. In your view, which was the most significant? Explain. (6)

PART IV: CALL ME MRS. DAVIS

15. Explain Harriet's frustration in **A WAR HERO**. (4)
16. What happens to Harriet in **NORTHERN REALITIES**? Are you surprised by this action in October 1865 in Philadelphia, the birthplace of liberty? What does this tell you about our city at this time? (4)
17. In **THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS** and **TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME**, how does Harriet's life change? (4)
18. Professor finishes her biography with the sections **TELLING HER STORY, A WIFE AND MOTHER, HARD TIMES, THE BALLOT BOX, MOTHER TUBMAN, GETTING PAID**, and **SERVANT OF GOD**. The Civil War ended in 1865, but Harriet Tubman lived another 48 years, passing in 1913. Most Americans know nothing about the last half century of her life. Explain **THREE** important causes or movements championed by Tubman during this period in her life. (9)
19. On pages 157-158, Professor Dunbar reproduced the redesign of the \$20 note - replacing Andrew Jackson with Harriet Tubman - that was meant to be unveiled in 2020. The Biden Administration reports that the bill will go into circulation in 2030, as scheduled. Based on what you know about Harriet Tubman, should her image adorn the \$20 note? Give **THREE** reasons to support your response. (9)