

Year 4 English Home Learning

WC 29.06.20 (Week 10)

(Activities 1, 2 and 3)

Activity 1:

Make predictions

- Look at the *Front Cover*. Write notes to say what you notice and what predictions you can make about the book. What might the title mean? What do you think/ know the 'Underground Railroad' might be?
- Read *Extract 1, 2 and 3* and then read *Henry's Freedom Box Questions* and write your answers.
- Please find the answers included.

Activity 2:

Reading Comprehension

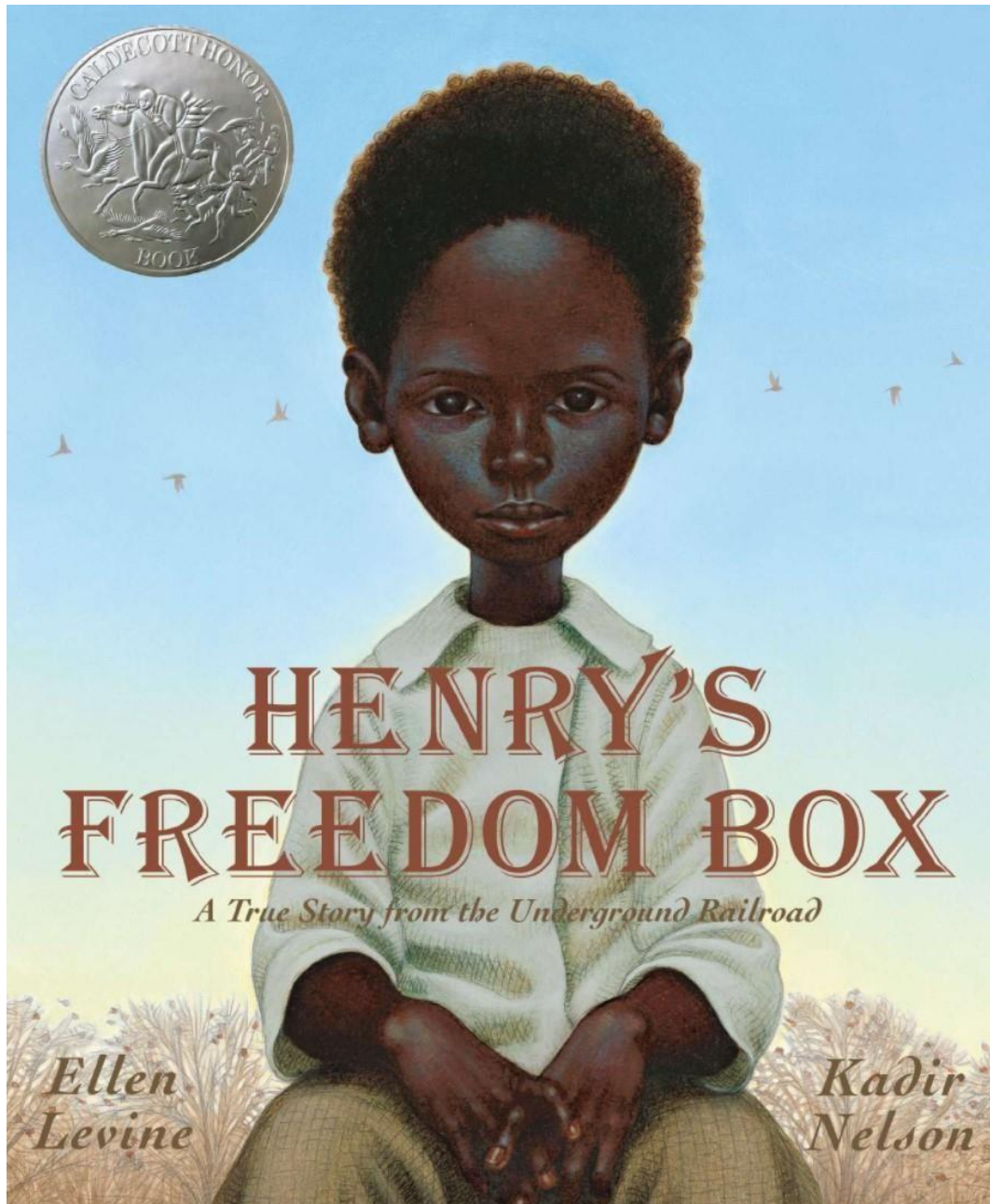
- Read the *Author's Note*.
- Answer *Author's Note – Questions*.
- Please find the answers included

Activity 3:

Complete the SPaG activity.

Front Cover

Activity 1



Extract 1

Henry Brown wasn't sure how old he was. He was a slave. And slaves weren't allowed to know their birthdays.

Henry and his brothers and sisters worked in the big house where the master lived. Henry's master had been good to Henry and his family. But Henry's mother knew things could change.

"Do you see those leaves blowing in the wind? They are torn from the trees like slave children are torn from their families."

One morning the master called for Henry and his mother. They climbed the wide staircase. The master lay in bed with only his head above the quilt. He was very ill. He beckoned them to come closer.

Some slaves were freed by their owners. Henry's heart beat fast. Maybe the master would set him free.

But the masters said, "You are a good worker, Henry. I am giving you to my son. You must obey him and never tell a lie."

Henry nodded, but he didn't say thank you. That would have been a lie.

Later that day, Henry watched a bird soar high among the trees. "*Free bird? Happy bird!*" Henry thought.

Henry said goodbye to his family. He looked across the field. The leaves swirled in the wind.

Extract 2

Henry worked in his new master's factory. He was good at his job.

"Do not tear the tobacco leaf!" the boss yelled at the new boy. He poked the boy with a stick.

If you made a mistake, the boss would beat you.

Henry was lonely. One day he met Nancy, who was shopping for her mistress. They walked and talked and agreed to meet again. Henry felt like singing. But slaves didn't dare sing in the streets. Instead he hummed all the way home.

Months later, Henry asked Nancy to be his wife. When both their master's agreed, Henry and Nancy were married.

Soon there was a little baby. Then another. And another.

Henry knew they were very lucky. They lived together even though they had different masters.

But Nancy was worried. Her master had lost a great deal of money.

"I'm afraid he will sell our children," she said. Henry sat very still.

Henry worked hard all morning. He tried to forget what Nancy had said.

His friend James came into the factory. He whispered to Henry, "Your wife and children were just sold at the slave market."

"No!" cried Henry.

Extract 3

Henry couldn't move. He couldn't think. He couldn't work.

"Twist that tobacco!" The boss poked Henry. Henry twisted tobacco leaves. His heart twisted in his chest.

At lunchtime, Henry rushed to the centre of town. A large group of slaves was tied together. The owner shouted at them.

Henry looked for his family.

"Father! Father!"

Henry watched his children disappear down the road.

Where was Nancy?

He saw her the same moment she saw him.

When he wiped away his tears, Nancy, too, was gone.

Henry's Freedom Box Questions

What tense is the story written in?
Find an example.

Which words and phrases stood out when you reread the story?

How is tension built in the story?
Find an example and explain how it is built.

Find some speech in the story. Write it below.

ANSWERS

What tense is the story written in?
Find an example.

Past tense

Henry worked...

The master called...

Henry rushed....

How is tension built in the story?
Find an example and explain how it is built.

Sometimes we know something bad will happen.

Henry said goodbye to his family. He looked across the field. The leaves swirled in the wind.

“I’m afraid he will sell our children”

Henry couldn’t move. He couldn’t think. He couldn’t work.

Which words and phrases stood out when you reread the story?

Possibly...

Slaves weren’t allowed to know their birthdays..

Henry didn’t say thank you because that would have been a lie.

“Your wife and children were just sold at the slave market.”

When he wiped away his tears, Nancy and the children were gone.

Find some speech in the story.
Write it below.

He whispered to Henry, “Your wife and children were just sold at the slave market.”

“Do not tear the tobacco leaf!” the boss yelled.

“Twist that tobacco!” The boss poked Henry.

Author's Note (Activity 2)

IN THE MID-1800s, THERE WERE ABOUT FOUR MILLION SLAVES LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES.

Slaves were owned, like tables, or cows, or wagons. Historians believe between 60,000 and 100,000 slaves escaped to freedom, traveling on what was called the Underground Railroad.

The Underground Railroad wasn't a real railroad. It was all the secret ways slaves made their way from the South to the North.

They hid in carts, rode on horseback, walked hundreds of miles through forests and swamps, and crossed flowing rivers in summer and icebound rivers in winter.

"Conductors" and "station masters" hid them and helped them throughout their journey.

When Henry Brown climbed into his Freedom Box, he hoped he'd be carried to a safe world. He brought along a small tool to make air holes, a little water, and a few biscuits. Henry arrived in Philadelphia, having travelled 350 miles from Richmond, Virginia, in 27 hours.

His story made newspaper headlines in America and Europe. Henry never found Nancy and his children. In 1850 he went to England, and there are some reports that he married again. We do know with absolute certainty that Henry "Box" Brown became one of the most famous runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad—the man who mailed himself to freedom.

From Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine

Author's Note - Questions

- 1. How many slaves were living in the United States in the mid-1800s?**
- 2. What was the Underground Railroad?**
- 3. What were some of the ways that slaves travelled?**
- 4. What did Henry Brown carry with him?**
- 5. How far had Henry travelled?**
- 6. Did Henry ever find Nancy or his children?**
- 7. Where did Henry Brown go in 1850?**

Author's Note - Answers

1. How many slaves were living in the United States in the mid-1800s?

There were about four million slaves living in the United States.

2. What was the Underground Railroad?

The Underground Railroad was the name given to all the secret ways that slaves escaped to the north from the south.

3. What were some of the ways that slaves travelled?

Slaves hid in carts, rode horses, walked and waded rivers to travel.

4. What did Henry Brown carry with him?

Henry carried a small tool for air holes, a little water and a few biscuits.

5. How far had Henry travelled?

Henry had travelled 350 miles.

6. Did Henry ever find Nancy or his children?

No, Henry never found Nancy or his children.

7. Where did Henry Brown go in 1850?

In 1850, Henry came to England.

Can you spot all of the mistakes in this sentence? Underline them and explain why they are incorrect. **A**

As it proudly strutting along, the peacocks feather's were a fabulous sight.



Can you think of words ending in the suffix -ation that match these definitions? **B**

Getting things ready and organised.

Carefully watching something (e.g. in a science experiment).

Cars, trains, planes, buses, etc.

Add a suitable fronted adverbial and the correct punctuation to this sentence. **C**

_____the weathervane spun wildly.



Mr Whoops has accidentally jumbled up a pair of homophone words. Can you help him to unjumble them? **D**

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Challenge: Now use both of the words within one sentence.

Add suitable noun phrases in the gaps: **E**

Louisa needed to get home as quickly as possible _____ didn't want to miss her favourite TV show.

Deer are herbivorous animals _____ only eat plants.

Add suitable determiners back into these sentences: **F**

_____ healthy salad makes a delicious and nutritious lunch.

Why not add _____ egg for extra protein?

For a healthy dessert, try adding _____ pot of natural yoghurt to fresh fruit.



Answers

A) It should say feathers with no apostrophe as it is a plural and the apostrophe should be in peacock's and 'strutting' is in the wrong tense – it should 'strutted' or 'As it was proudly strutting...'

B) Preparation, observation and transportation.

C) Accept any suitable fronted adverbial phrase marked with a comma, e.g. During the ferocious storm, the weathervane spun wildly.

D) Piece and peace

E) Accept any sensible noun phrase e.g. 'the rushing girl' accept any sensible noun phrase, e.g. 'the mammals'.

F) A, an, a