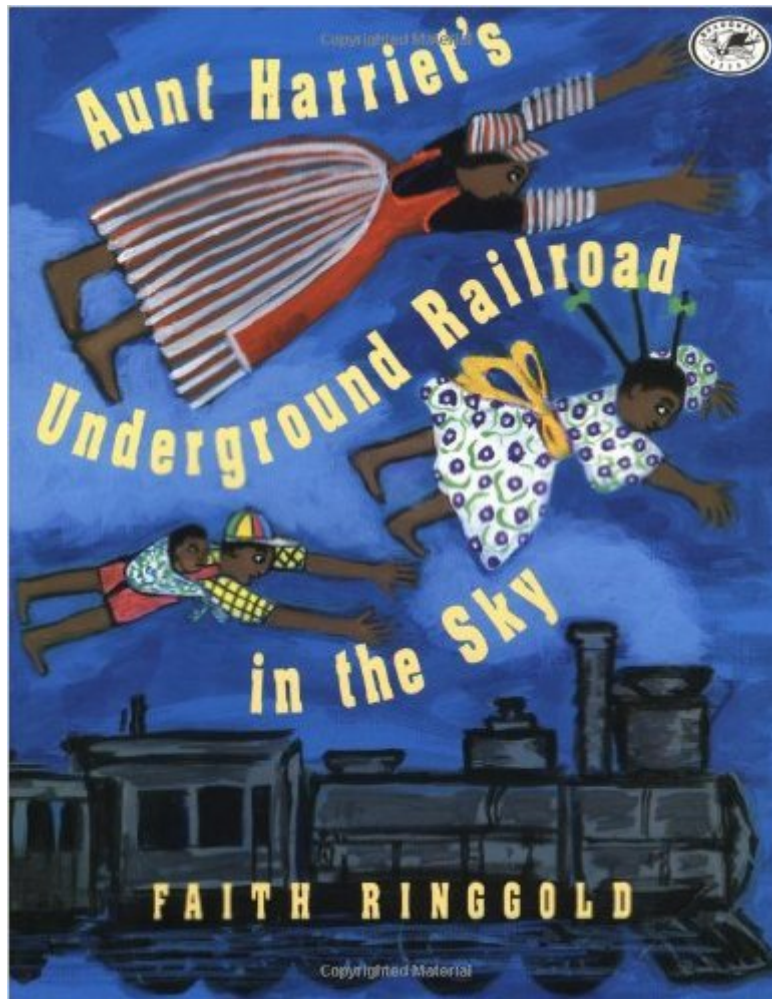


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# Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad In The Sky



## Synopsis

Illus. in full color. Cassie, who flew above New York in Tar Beach, soars into the sky once more. This time, she and her brother Be Be meet a train full of people, and Be Be joins them. But the train departs before Cassie can climb aboard. With Harriet Tubman as her guide, Cassie retraces the steps escaping slaves took on the real Underground Railroad and is finally reunited with her brother at the story's end.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Dragonfly Books ed edition (December 12, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780517885437

ISBN-13: 978-0517885437

ASIN: 0517885433

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.2 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #126,915 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Era](#) #174 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) #287 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

"One day, my brother Be Be and I were flying among the stars, way way up, so far up the mountains looked like pieces of rock candy and the oceans like tiny cups of tea. We came across an old ramshackled train in the sky." So begins Cassie Louise Lightfoot's tale of meeting "conductor" Harriet Tubman and riding the underground railroad to Canada. Based on Harriet Tubman's account of a dream she had while very sick, of flying to freedom and enhanced with historical facts and imagination, Faith Ringgold has authored a superb story that transports youngsters back to the slave holding plantations of the south, over one hundred years ago, and then sends them on a terrifying, yet exhilarating journey to freedom. Her engaging poetic text, full of imagery and magic, is

complemented by her bold, expressive, evocative illustrations and together, word and art bring this emotional story to life. With additional biographical notes and map, tracing the underground railroad routes, included to augment lessons and discussions, Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad In The Sky is a masterpiece youngsters 6-10 shouldn't miss and a wonderful addition to all home libraries.

This book tells of two children and their adventure traveling the underground railroad to Canada to freedom. Aunt Harriet directs these two to each stop and the children meet many interesting people and see many new things. Though the children are separated at the beginning, they keep in contact through notes left along the way. The children experience the feelings of what the slaves went through on their trip to freedom.

This book is fantastic - its illustrations are haunting and lovely, and the story is magical and historical at the same time. Faith Ringgold's approach makes the history simpler for children to understand while not undermining the depth and horror of slavery in America. I highly recommend it to any parent.

This well written children's book recounts the story of slavery in an easy to understand language with corresponding pictures. The pictures are primitively done with paint and canvas, but are detailed and represent drawings from that time period. The overall story draws in historical aspects of a time period using actual information that every child should be aware of. Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky portrays life as a slave from the viewpoint of someone who lives in that life and compares their hardships to our life today. For further reading, at the book there is biographical information about Harriet Tubman and a map of the Underground Railroad in 1880. Young readers can see that although this story is fiction, it is based on real events.

The story of the Underground Railroad is presented in a magical, yet understandable way for primary school children. Cassie and her brother begin a journey to freedom, just like generations before them did in order to escape slavery. Cassie and her brother learn about slavery and the reasons why so many braved the perilous journey to the northern states and Canada. Cassie relives the journey and experiences many of the feelings and events that others did as she desperately tries to catch up to her brother, who has boarded the "train". The illustrations of acrylic on canvas enhance and heighten the excitement as Cassie makes her way through the woods and meets with those willing to help her. I recommend this book to others as a great way to explain the concept of

the Underground Railroad and it's place in our country's history.

Saw a documentary on PBS about crafts and Faith Ringgold was one of the artist's featured. She talked about her book, Tar Beach, and I knew i had to get it, so I went to the library and checked it out. I enjoyed it thoroughly and resolved to get all of her books. I love how she uses color to fill the entire page. Having had family who lived in NYC, I was familiar with NYC rooftops and wasn't sure my southern grandchildren, who live in the country, would appreciate Tar Beach. So, I'm starting them with her, Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky. I would recommend all of her books.

I have purchased this book as a learning tool for an Education Committee at our local quilter's guild. This book is well written and wonderful for young people.

Faith Ringgold is not just a phenomenal artist but children's author as well. I am impressed with her writings and enjoy them as much as the children do. Carolyn Mason

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