

Welcome to Thinkport's Student Activity Center! Your teacher has directed you to this student activity to help you learn more about the topic you are studying.

**Title:** Freedom's Song

**Audience:** Middle

**Duration:** 45 Minutes

**Subject Area(s):**

Language Arts - Reading

**Grade Level(s):** 6,7,8

**Student Directions:**

Slaves who wanted to escape to freedom in the North often relied songs to guide them to the "promised land." Find out how slaves decoded these songs to escape from slavery.

**The Students will:**

be able to explain how songs and stories were used by slaves to communicate

**Directions:** As you explore the Secrets: Signs and Symbols interactive, you will discover how song lyrics helped slaves escape on the Underground Railroad. You will be responsible for gathering information on how songs were used to assist slaves in their escape to freedom. Open the interactive and click on the "Music" button that is located at the top of the screen. Collect information from this section of the interactive to answer the questions in the Secret Songs worksheet. After you have completed the worksheet, you will write a song that contains information that could be used by slaves in their escape on the Underground Railroad. A Songs of Freedom Organizer is provided to help you write your song. Use the Songs of Freedom rubric to check your work. If you need help with the writing of your song, you may use the Song-Writing Tips handout.

**Secrets: Signs & Symbols**

The Secrets: Signs & Symbols interactive provides you with an opportunity to decode the hidden meanings in slave songs. As you investigate this site, you will discover how these songs helped lead slaves to freedom.

<http://pathways.thinkport.org/secrets/>

How did hidden meanings in songs lead slaves to freedom?

Secret Songs Worksheet ([View](#))

Songs of Freedom Organizer ([View](#))

Songs of Freedom Rubric ([View](#))

## **Voluntary State Curriculum**

**3.0 Comprehension of Literary Text: Students will read, comprehend, interpret, analyze, and evaluate literary texts.**

Grade 6

6. Determine important ideas and messages in literary texts

a. Analyze main ideas and universal themes

Assessment Limits:

→ In the text or a portion of the text

→ Literal versus interpretive meanings of a text or a portion of text

Grade 7 and 8

6. Analyze important ideas and messages in literary texts

a. Analyze main ideas and universal themes

Assessment Limits:

→ Literal versus interpretive meanings of a text or a portion of text

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Activity Signature

**Author:** Laurel Blaine