

# The Relevance of Slave Songs and Quakers

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Prospectus For

*Josiah: The Maimed Fugitive. A True Tale.*  
The Relevance of Slave Songs and Quakers

Henry Bleby's narrative, *Josiah: The Maimed Fugitive. A True Tale*, emphasizes a slave that is burdened by the many task of his labor. Josiah, the main slave, highlighted escapes from his owner with his family to Canada. Bleby explores how there were many obstacles that he and his family had to endure in order for them to escape. Once Josiah escapes and establishes himself as a black man, his calling is to help others liberate themselves as he did. He goes back to Kentucky to help other slaves, so that they can become free as well. The author portrays Josiah as being a main benefactor for many slaves and their families, when they are traveling to the North and trying to become liberated.

The motive of this story of Josiah is to inform readers of how a Negro slave can come from nothing and then escape and become someone who is doing good for themselves. An example of this would be Josiah, he escaped from his master and ended up becoming known not only in his country, but overseas as well. Though that might be the purpose of why Bleby wrote the novel, it does not explain how slaves actually get started on their path to freedom. Without the customs of using aids to break away from slavery, would the slaves be able to navigate their way to freedom on their own? Why is it vital that slaves had various methods and techniques to assists in their path to liberation? How were the slave aids implemented in their expedition in order for the escaping slaves to advance to their freedom? Also what were the slaves' strategies in order to escape by using different forms of assistors while traveling?

In this paper, I plan to focus on how the slaves' strategies of utilizing slave songs and the aid of Quakers were fundamental to the slaves that were escaping from their owners and fleeing to safe ground in the North. Using a variety of fugitive slave stories, biographies, and photographs emphasizing slaves escaping, I will analyze printed work, evaluated electronic sources, and scholarly journals in order to illustrate my position.



### **Bibliography**

Aptheker, Herbert. "The Quakers and Negro Slavery." *Journal of the Negro History* 14.5 (1997): 375-94. *J-Stor*. Web. 22 Feb. 2011.

In this article, Herbert displays the Quaker's role in helping a Negro Slave become free. It relates to the narrative of Josiah because, he used Quakers in order to get to his freedom in the North. I am using this source because it emphasizes how the Quakers helped the slaves while they were on the run. I am also using this source because it shows how many slaves need Quakers.

Bleby, Henry. *Josiah: The Maimed Fugitive. A True Tale*. North Carolina: Chapel Hill, 2003. Docsouth. Web. 20 Feb. 2011.

In this Slave narrative the main character Josiah escapes from his master and heads to the North in order to get his freedom. He escapes by the usage of Quakers in the narrative and the reader finds without them he would not have escaped successfully. I am using this source because it shows how slaves and Quakers worked together in order for a slave to become free. It also gives relevance to why slaves needed the Quakers.

Blight, David. *A Slave No More: Two Men who Escaped Freedom*. Florida: Houston Mifflin Harcourt Publishing, 2004. Print.

The section of the novel that I read was about the two slaves John Washington and Wallace Turnage using different mechanisms to gain their freedom. In the narratives from the two men, it goes on to say how white people, known as Quakers, were used to help hide the slaves when they were being searched for. It gives the reader insight of how Quakers were so essential to the slaves becoming free. For example, in the narrative I read, the group that Josiah led were helped by a Quaker man. Without his help, Josiah and his group would have been captured. I am

using it because it will help with my claim of how aids were vital in order for slaves to gain their freedom.

Brown, William. *The Narrative of William Brown, A Slave Fugitive*. Kentucky: Reader Classic, 1862. Print.

The author of this novel is William Brown himself, and he indicates how he escapes to freedom in his narrative. He goes on to express how he was subject to harsh ridicule as a slave and how he wanted to escape his so called imprisonment. This is similar to Bleby's narrative because he portrays Josiah as a slave that is mistreated and wants to escape. The section that is the focus for this selection will give background information about fugitive slaves and how they ran away and what helped them in their process of doing so. This is valuable information because it gives reasons of why many slaves plan their escape.

Fisher, Miles. *Negro Slave Songs in the United States*. New York: Russell and Russell Publishing, 1967. Print.

The author Miles Fisher gives insight on how the Slaves used slave songs when they were traveling. He gives details of the elements they described while they were singing the different songs. This novel indicates the ways slaves actually used the songs to describe certain thing that they were looking for. I am using this source because it gives detail of how many slaves utilized different songs and how it helped them get to freedom.

Garnet, Miguel. *Biography of a Runaway Slave*. Connecticut: Curbstone Press, 1996. Print.

This novel is a bit different from the rest because it takes place in the Caribbean. It still has the same focus of how slaves escape to gain their freedom, except in this section that was

read it indicated that there was no place to escape to. It contrast to the story of Josiah because, Josiah had somewhere to escape to while the characters in this novel did not. However, it demonstrates how the usage of other individuals to help with their freedom plays a factor to actually escaping the slave owners holds.

Gordon, A.H . "The Struggle of Negro Slaves." *Journal of the Negro History* 13.5 (1996): 375-94. *J-Stor*. Web. 22 Feb.2011.

This article indicates how the slave masters made the slaves feel inferior as human beings. It then goes on to emphasize the ways slaves escaped and how they did it. One part in the article demonstrates how slaves may use aids in order to help them get to the north. This is similar to the narrative of Josiah because, he used aids such as Quakers to escape to the north. I am using this source because it demonstrates how slaves implemented different things to help them escape to their freedom.

Hamilton, Virginia. *Anything Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave*. New York: Dell Laurel-Leet, 1993. Print.

In this novel, the authors shows how Derrek Codwell is trying to escape but does not succeed at doing so. He gets captured and is put into slavery again. This source is useful because it shows a reason why so many slaves needed to have helpers in order to flee in a good manner. It also demonstrates why it is vital to not get captured while escaping.

Painter, John. " The Fugitive of the Pearl." *Journal of the Negro History* 16.3 (1999): 375-94. *J-Stor*. Web. 22 Feb.2011.

In this journal article it indicates a slave who wants to be free from his troubles. Painter, the author demonstrates how the character eventually becomes free because he used slave songs

while on his travels. Just like Josiah, the slave in this article needed help in order to escape and become free. I am using this source because it gives detail to how various slave songs were utilized while slaves were making their getaway.

Ridell, William. "The Fugitive Slave in Upper Canada." *Journal of the Negro History* 16.8 (1999): 340-58. *J-Stor*. Web. 22 Feb. 2011.

This selection indicates the history of the fugitive slaves after the act of 1793. It also demonstrates the slave journeys while they are traveling to the North to gain their freedom. In a particular section, it emphasizes how some of the individuals would sing songs in order to find their way to the North. This source is useful because it talks about the relationship of the slave and the slave song.


**84** / 100

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PAGE 1

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PAGE 2

 1. Almost one full page. What happened? This was getting good!

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PAGE 3

**Lowercase** Lowercase:

Change a capital letter to lowercase.

For capitalization conventions, [see chapter 44.](#)

For words in a title that should be capitalized and lowercase according to MLA style, [see "Title of Book or Part of Book" on page 194.](#)


For the APA rules regarding capitalization in titles, [see "Title of Book or Part of Book" on page 245.](#)


For CMS rules, [see page 285.](#)


[http://bca.brookscole.com/quiz-public?name=wrha02q/wrha02q\\_chp30](http://bca.brookscole.com/quiz-public?name=wrha02q/wrha02q_chp30)

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PAGE 4

 2. This isn't a novel. A novel is fiction.

 3. what? songs? If so, "they" should be the word you intend here.

 4. If this is a biography, then it's not a novel.

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PAGE 5

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PAGE 6

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## SPA (20%)

5 / 5

EXCELLENT (5)	Research question is appropriate for assignment; document satisfies audience expectations- Question will yield an assertion, opinion, thesis statement for research paper;1-1/2 pages of text, plan for the research, methodology, sources.
GOOD (4)	Research question is sufficiently narrow but the document only partially responds to it
SATISFACTORY (3)	Research question lacks specificity or is too narrow or broad for audience and purpose.
UNSATISFACTORY (2)	Research question does not address assignment or meet audience needs. Presents an question that will yield a report.
UNACCEPTABLE (1)	Research is question missing or inadequate.

## ANNOTATIONS (30%)

4 / 5

EXCELLENT (5)	Required information is provided and thorough for each source--4-6 informative, relevant sentences that speak to the research question and plan.
GOOD (4)	At least ¾ of the sources provide complete and thorough information.
SATISFACTORY (3)	Half or fewer sources provide complete and thorough information.
UNSATISFACTORY (2)	Each source lacks part of required information.
UNACCEPTABLE (1)	Annotation missing or uninformative.

## FORMATTING (30%)

4 / 5

EXCELLENT (5)	All citations and all aspects of prospectus meet formatting specifications--MLA Citation Style. Sources for prospectus are consistent with MLA.
GOOD (4)	Occasional errors in citations and/or oversights in page formatting.
SATISFACTORY (3)	Frequent deviations from citation and/or page requirements.
UNSATISFACTORY (2)	Formatting is of mixed styles or inconsistently used.
UNACCEPTABLE (1)	Formatting is care-less or lacking.

## LANGUAGE (20%)

4 / 5

EXCELLENT (5)	Style, tone, and expression appropriate for academic writing; diction well chosen; syntax and mechanics virtually error-free.
GOOD (4)	Style and tone suitable for academic writing; syntax and mechanics have minor errors; diction appropriate in most instances.

SATISFACTORY  
(3)

Style and tone fall short of academic standards; distracting usage, diction, and mechanical errors.

UNSATISFACTORY  
(2)

Little resemblance to academic writing in most respects.

UNACCEPTABLE  
(1)

Frequent errors inhibit clarity and meaning.