

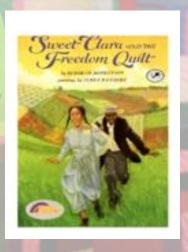


The Underground Railroad 'Quilt' Code'

"I believe that it is better to tell the truth than a lie.

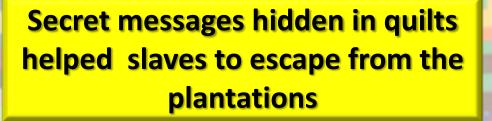
I believe it is better to be free than to be a slave.

And I believe it is better to know than to be ignorant."









Slaves were not allowed to read or write, and it was illegal to teach a slave to do so.

Patterns in quilts, as well as codes hidden in songs and dance allowed the slaves to communicate in a way that the white owners could not understand.

Flying Geese

Signal to follow the migrating geese in spring.

Most Geese could be used as a guide to food and water.





Gather tools
needed in an
escape, both the
physical tools
and the
mental ones.



Drunkard's Path

Tells the slaves to take a zig-zag path (to

confuse pursuing slave hunters and their hounds.)





The North Star

Had 2 meanings:

1. Prepare to escape.

2. Follow the North
Star to Canada on
the

Underground Railroad.



Their unique quilt tradition has been passed down through generations, many of the quilts have been exhibited in art museums, and many books have been published about them.











