



HARRIET ROBINSON SCOTT

Say What?

Studying slavery and the justice system can mean learning a lot of new vocabulary. Find five words in this book that you've never seen before. Use a dictionary to find out what they mean. Then write the meanings in your own words, and use each word in a new sentence.





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Take a Stand

Harriet and Dred spent many years in court trying to get their freedom. They had also had opportunities to run away. Which do you think was a better way of trying to achieve freedom? Write a paragraph explaining why. What risks and obstacles might an enslaved person have encountered in both of these cases?





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Another View

This book talks about the Scotts' legal battle for freedom. As you know, every source is different. Ask a librarian to help you find another source about this topic. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's authors. How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?





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Dig Deeper

After reading this book, what questions do you still have about Harriet Robinson Scott? With an adult's help, find a few reliable sources that can help you answer your questions. Write a paragraph about what you learned.





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Why Do I Care?

The Supreme Court made its *Dred Scott v. Sanford* decision more than 150 years ago. But that doesn't mean you can't think about its legacy. How might your life or the lives of others be different today if this court case had not happened?





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Discussion Questions

- How is Harriet Robinson Scott's story similar to other slave narratives that you have heard? How is it different?
- Harriet was enslaved in both the North and the South. How were her experiences of slavery in the South different from her experiences of slavery in the North? In what ways do you think slavery was similar and different in these regions?





- Why do you think the Scotts chose to fight for their freedom in court instead of trying to escape slavery by running away?
- It was illegal for enslaved people to learn to read or write. How do you think being illiterate affected the Scotts' lives?
- What is Harriet's legacy? What lessons do you think people should take from Harriet's story? How might her story continue to inspire people today?
- Dred's story is better known than Harriet's story. How do you think Harriet's story could be taught in schools and communities today?

