

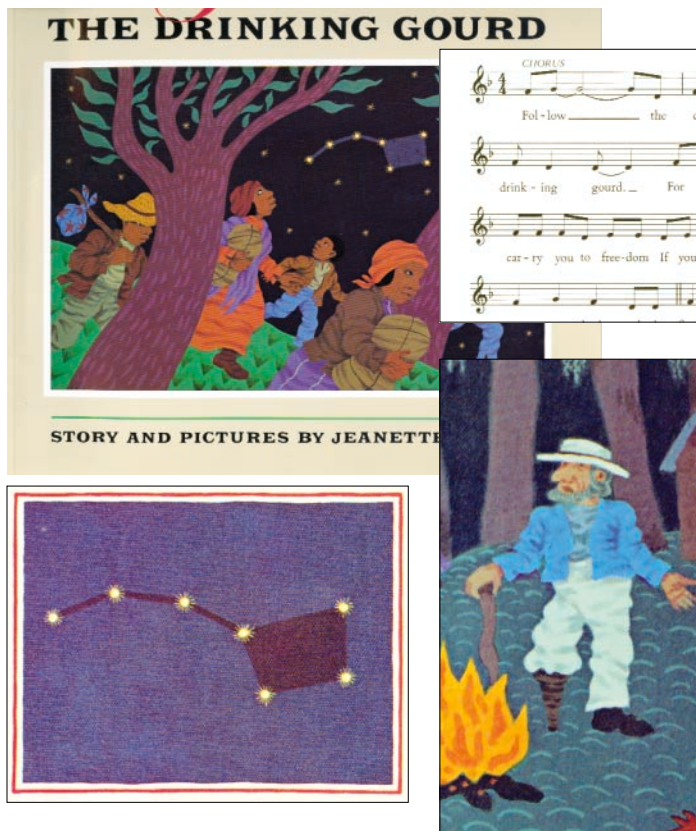
Read FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD

Read the Book

Read Jeannette Winter's book *Follow the Drinking Gourd*. Listen to the recording of "Follow the Drinking Gourd" on the Slave Life and the Underground Railroad page of the Web site. After listening to the song and hearing the story of Peg Leg Joe, try to answer the following questions.

What Do You Think

A Few Things to Think About



Images from *Follow the Drinking Gourd* courtesy of Jeannette Winter. Used by permission from Dragonfly Books a division of Alfred A. Knopf

Why was the folk song "Follow the Drinking Gourd" so important to slaves?

Why do you think Peg Leg Joe hired himself out to plantation owners as a handyman?

What special mark did he leave to guide the escaping slaves?

How do you think the escaping slaves felt on their journey?

What might have happened to the slaves if the slave owners caught them trying to escape?

What might have happened to Peg Leg Joe and other helpers on the Underground Railroad if the slave owners discovered their activities?

Share Your Thoughts

Write a poem or letter about life on the Underground Railroad as a conductor, a passenger, or the owner of a safe house. Illustrate your work and share it with others.