

National Assessments
5 -14

English language

Reading - Level D
(Narrative)

Julilly

Name

Date.....



Assessment is for Learning

AssessmentID: 000 - TaskID: 000

JULILLY

In the southern United States during the last century rich white people owned black people and kept them as slaves to work on huge farms or plantations. Many slaves were cruelly treated and some tried to escape from their cruel masters.

In this story Julilly and Liza are young runaway slave girls. Julilly's mother once told her she must try to get to a place called Canada. They don't know where or what Canada is but they know there is no slavery there and all people are free. The word 'Canada' is like a secret password.

Julilly and Liza have no map and no food and they know there are people looking for them. If they are caught they will be punished and returned to the plantation so they have dressed as boys hoping that they will not be recognised.

In the very early morning, Julilly saw an old man hobbling along the road, pulling a cart behind him. She crawled quickly from their hideout and walked up to him. She had no fear of this ancient white-haired, black-faced man.

“Can you tell me what town I'm comin' to next?” she asked.

The old man jumped a little. Julilly startled him. It seemed as if he had trudged this road a thousand times and never had a black youngster bound out right in front of him before. He stopped his cart and looked at her carefully.

“Lexington, Kentucky,” he answered kindly. Then he whispered, “You a slave? You runnin' away?”

Julilly didn't have to answer. The old man knew. He looked cautiously down the road behind him as though expecting someone. Then he pulled his cart to the side of the road and lowered the handles to the ground. He reached inside his loose jacket and drew out a half loaf of bread.

“This is for you, child,” he said softly. His wise old eyes lighted on her briefly, then focused far away with tired patience.

Please turn over

“If I was a young man, I’d go ’long,” he said. He peered again down the road. “Hide in those bushes, boy. When night comes follow the railroad tracks to Covington. There’s a free coloured man named Jeb Brown lives there. He’ll get you ’cross the Ohio River in his little boat. You’ve got to cross the Ohio to get to Canada.”

Julilly was startled when she heard ‘Canada’. How did the old man know? But she didn’t question him. She held his hand instead and thanked him from her heart.

The old man’s back was more bent than Liza’s, she noticed. His shabby clothes barely covered it. But he had strong arms and steady feet and he had a pleased look on his face since giving Julilly the bread. He started towards his cart, when a man on horseback swerved around the corner of the road and stopped beside him.

Julilly ran quickly to the shelter of the cornfield.

The man on horseback pulled in the reins of his horse and glared down at the old man.

“What you mean, Joe,” he cried out, “restin’ by the road so early in the morning? Get along there.” He twirled a whip in the air.

The old man leaned down and picked up the handles of his cart and plodded on down the road.

Julilly and Liza held each other and sobbed.

“He’s a slave too,” Julilly cried. “He’ll be hungry today. He gave us all his food.”

She held the bread gently in both her hands.

Julilly: an adapted extract from
“Underground to Canada” by Barbara
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JULILLY

Section A

Look at these sentences about the story. Decide whether each sentence is **True** or **False** or whether you **Can't tell** from the story.

Tick ONE box beside each sentence.

		True	False	Can't Tell
1.	The old man knew the way to Canada.			
2.	The man was poorly dressed.			
3.	The rider whipped the old man.			
4.	The old man wore shoes.			
5.	The old man gave all his food away.			

Section B

Choose the word which best sums up the feelings of the people at particular moments in the story. **Underline the best answer.**

1. The old man spoke to Julilly

carefully / gently / cautiously / eagerly / sadly

2. Just before putting down his cart the old man was

anxious / relieved / surprised / stunned / pleased

3. When the old man mentioned Canada, Julilly was

alarmed / relieved / surprised / stunned / amused

4. After the old man had finished speaking to Julilly, he felt

grateful / satisfied / comforted / tired / delighted

5. The old man's generosity filled the girls with

bread / amazement / sadness / emotion / expectancy

Section C

Here is a summary of the passage. Some of the words have been missed out. **Fill in the gaps, using one word or two words in each space.** Use your own words or words from the story.

Early in the morning Julilly saw an old man on the road. She left her shelter

_____ because she felt _____. The man was
(1) (2)

_____ as he did not _____ to see a
(3) (4)

black girl on the road.

The old man _____ many things about Julilly without being told
(5)

and because he was very _____ he wanted to _____
(6) (7)

her. He knew she was a _____ trying to _____ so
(8) (9)

he gave her some bread. He knew it wasn't _____ to think of going
(10)

with her as he was _____ but he gladly gave her _____
(11) (12)

for the next stage of her journey. She didn't ask him about _____
(13)

although the word _____ her. All Julilly gave him was her
(14)

_____.
(15)

It wasn't until a man rode up and was _____ with the old man that
(16)

Julilly and Liza realised that, like them, the old man was _____.
(17)

Last Page

This is the last page of the Assessment.

It can be discarded.