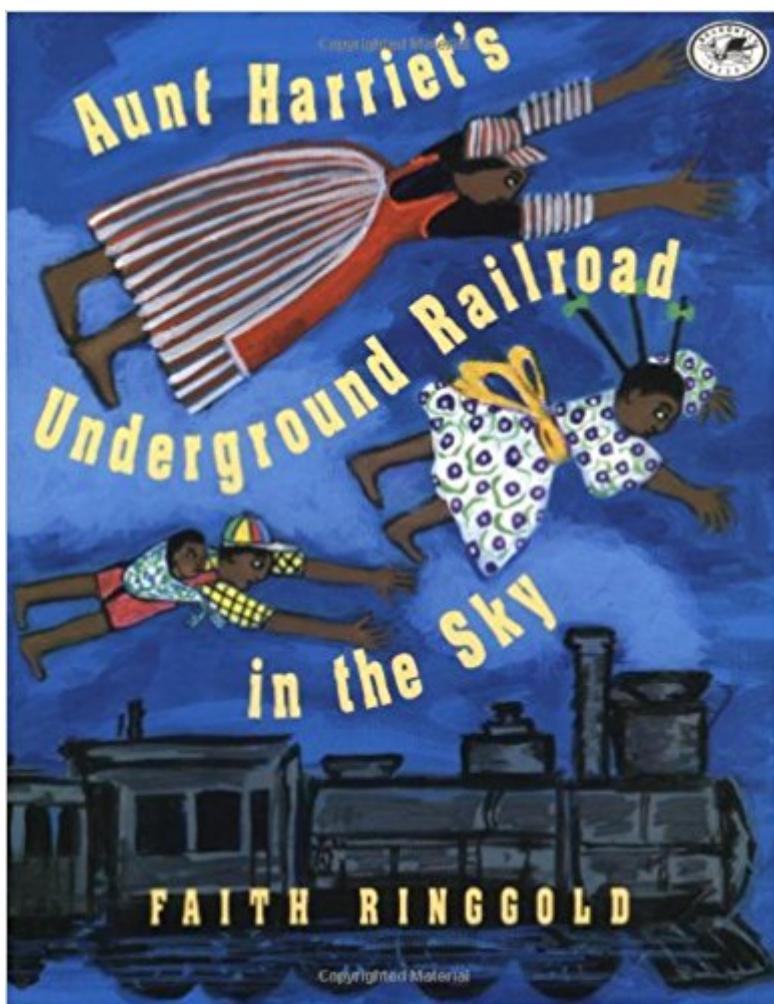


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# Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad In The Sky



## **Synopsis**

Illus. in full color. Cassie, who flew above New York in Tar Beach, soars into the sky once more. This time, she and her brother Be Be meet a train full of people, and Be Be joins them. But the train departs before Cassie can climb aboard. With Harriet Tubman as her guide, Cassie retraces the steps escaping slaves took on the real Underground Railroad and is finally reunited with her brother at the story's end.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Dragonfly Books ed edition (December 12, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780517885437

ISBN-13: 978-0517885437

ASIN: 0517885433

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.2 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #73,703 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Era #103 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s #116 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

Characters from Tar Beach once again fly--this time in a fantastical sky train run by Harriet Tubman that traces a route on the Underground Railroad. Ages 4-9. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 2 Up-- Using the symbolic motif of flying as she did in Tar Beach (Crown, 1991), Ringgold reintroduces Cassie and Be Be Lightfoot, who soar above oceans that look like cups of tea and meet a ``ramshackled train in the sky'' whose conductor is Harriet Tubman. Aunt Harriet, as she is called, explains that the railroad in the sky retraces her route to freedom every 100 years.

Meanwhile, Be Be jumps on board. Cassie, who misses the train, must follow, living the slave existence, always one step behind, hoping to rejoin her brother in Canada. What follows is a compelling journey in which the author masterfully integrates fantasy and historical fact in such a way that readers join Cassie in experiencing the fear and the mystery of such a trip. The spare but eloquent text conveys much information, and the artist's flat, primitive illustrations in acrylic on canvas paper lend power and symbolism to one of the most dramatic chapters in American history. Everywhere, Cassie finds clues leading her to Be Be. Everywhere, she receives whispered directions from Aunt Harriet that lead her forward. Everywhere, the threat of capture lurks in the background in the form of the sinister chalkwhite faces of bounty hunters. Although adults may have difficulty with literal interpretation, children with only basic background will recognize that the story is both fact and fantasy--history and allegory. With gripping immediacy, Ringgold puts readers in the story on the side of the victims, insuring, through powerful words and images, ``that we will never forget the cost of freedom.'' Groundbreaking! --Kate McClelland, Perrot Memorial Library, Greenwich, CT  
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My daughter and I really enjoyed this book.

I bought this to explain the Underground Rail Road to my grandson. I think we will have to read it in stages.

My students love the art work and story this book has to share.

Faith Ringgold is not just a phenomenal artist but children's author as well. I am impressed with her writings and enjoy them as much as the children do. Carolyn Mason

Great book to read your children.

Cassie, the young girl from Tar Beach, gets to dream about the underground railroad, weaving in the mythical story of the Flying Africans.

So powerful!

good story for kids and adults.

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