



Follow the Drinking Gourd: An Underground Railroad Story (Night Sky Stories)

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Follow the Drinking Gourd is an American folk song from the 1920s. Legend has it that a man called Peg Leg Joe taught slaves the song to help them escape to freedom, and they used the Big Dipper and the North Star to guide the way.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

K-4-A strong choice for classroom read-alouds or lap-reading, this series has a perfect text-to-image balance. Three of the books are based on Roman mythology, with the fourth telling a legend of the Underground Railroad. The eye-catching artwork is consistent in style and tone, giving a uniform feeling to the set while still allowing the illustrators to showcase their talents. While the Roman names may give independent readers pause, the vocabulary is well-tailored to the age level. "Learn More" sections at the end of every volume provide more information. For example, in Orion readers learn that "In Hindu myth, Orion's constellation is actually the god Prajapati, who became a deer." α(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

In this entry in the Night Sky Stories series, Peg Leg Joe travels from plantation to plantation, singing a song with special significance to the slaves working the fields ("When the sun comes back, And the first quail calls, Follow the drinking gourd"). If the slaves listen carefully, the words provide a "map to freedom." The song, interspersed with the story of Peg Leg Joe, is brief and repeated throughout, making for a good read-aloud and sing-along. Squier's digitally created illustrations are eye-catching and saturated with color, often depicting the faces of Joe and the slaves illuminated by a nighttime fire. Although there is an extremely brief and simple glossary, suggested further reading and websites offer kids the opportunity to learn more on the subject of the Underground Railroad. An introduction to the book also touches on the subject and explains that "Follow the Drinking Gourd" is an American folk song. Grades 2-4. --Charli Osborne

About the Author

Cari Meister has written more than a hundred books for children, including the "Tiny" series (Penguin) and the "Meet the Monsters" series (Stone Arch Books). She has received many awards for her books. Most recently, "Airplane Adventure" (Stone Arch Books), was named to "Parents" magazine Best Books for 2010. Cari has been fascinated by the night sky ever since she can remember. Her love of space and stars led her to Space Camp when she was growing up. Today, Cari lives in the mountains of Colorado, with her husband, four boys, two horses and one dog.

When I was four or five, I was given Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*. At that age, I didn't understand the difference between a coloring book and a picture book. I enthusiastically scribbled Crayola circles all over Max and his Wild Things. Then guilt set in. I thought I had ruined the world's only copy of this wondrous book. I resolved to become an artist so I could one day replace the book I had destroyed. True story. Some families might discourage a kid who aspires to be an artist. But my grandfather, Donald G. Squier, was a portrait painter—his clients included General Patton and President Taft—so my family was used to dealing with eccentric artsy types. My parents and four brothers were happy to let me spend my childhood drawing monsters, aliens, and prehistoric beasts. I became the star artist of my kindergarten class, due mostly to my prowess at drawing Godzilla. It wasn't long before I began using my drawings to tell stories. I wrote comic strips for the school newspaper and self-published comic books. In college, my contributions to the campus paper were notorious and led to my first commercial illustration job. This led to more work and, eventually, a career as a designer and illustrator. I studied graphic design in college but found that illustration was my true calling. I just love to draw. I also enjoy the challenges of illustration: telling a story with flair and clarity and finding a style that satisfies me, my clients and an audience. I even like working within guidelines and deadlines. Over the years, I've worked in all types of traditional media:

crayons, markers, rapidograph pens, letraset screen-tones, pen and ink, brush and ink, colored pencil, watercolor and acrylics. My experience working traditionally, plus years spent working as a graphic designer, has made my transition to digital painting nearly seamless. Today I enjoy working in both traditional and digital media. So far, my illustrations have appeared in fifteen published books for children. I hope that, somewhere, a kid has scribbled all over one of them.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maria Jennings:

The book Follow the Drinking Gourd: An Underground Railroad Story (Night Sky Stories) make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable far more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem with the subject. If you can make studying a book Follow the Drinking Gourd: An Underground Railroad Story (Night Sky Stories) being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open up and read a book Follow the Drinking Gourd: An Underground Railroad Story (Night Sky Stories). Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this book?

Gabriel Reyes:

Often the book Follow the Drinking Gourd: An Underground Railroad Story (Night Sky Stories) has a lot details on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was published by the very famous author. The writer makes some research ahead of write this book. That book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

Walter Son:

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Kent Brown:

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