

**CREATING HISTORICAL FICTION WITH SLAVE NARRATIVES AND RUNAWAY SLAVE ADS****STUDENT HANDOUT 1: SAMPLE OF A FICTIONAL RUNAWAY SLAVE DIARY ENTRY****By Nicholas, a 4th Grade Student**

It is about lunchtime and I have just finished eating one of my corn muffins that I brought with me from the plantation. I am still hungry but I know that I have to make my food supply last for a long time. I am running away from the plantation and I am planning on going to Philadelphia. I left late at night after everyone went to sleep. Only my mother and my friend, Mary, know that I am running away. My mother would have come too, but she is too old and Mary would have come but she was too scared. I was scared too. If they catch me they will probably bring me back to the plantation and beat me. They might even sell me to another plantation. I wonder if Master has found out that I am gone? My job on the plantation is to do work in the kitchen. Mary said that if anyone asks where I am today she would tell them that I didn't feel well last night and I probably did not feel well enough to work today. I hope they didn't go to my cabin to see if I am really sick. I didn't bring much with me. The only things that I brought are a gourd of water, a batch of fresh corn muffins, a blanket my mother made for me, a couple of pieces of dried ham and two pieces of paper. I hope that I will be able to find some more food to eat on the way. Right now, I am hiding in a bush on the side of the road. I cannot walk out in the open where someone could see me. I am very sleepy anyway so I will just curl up here with my blanket and take a nap. Later when it gets dark I will start walking again.

Last night when I was walking I heard dogs coming so I saw a lake, ran to it, and jumped right in so the dogs would not get my scent. The dogs came closer but then they passed by. I was cold and wet last night but today I dried out and feel fine again. I have eaten a lot of my muffins and most of my ham, so tonight I am going to look for some berries and nuts while I am walking in the woods. Last night while I was walking I heard someone coming so I tried to run away but I tripped and fell. Then I heard this man say, "Do you need help?" and I said "yes." I still wasn't sure if he was really going to help me, but then I knew because he gave me some food and he told me to walk on a small dirt road. He said the dirt road will take me to the Underground Railroad and from there a conductor will take me to Washington, DC by a wagon. Then I will take a train to Philadelphia from Washington. He also filled up my gourd and gave me train money. I wonder what being free is like? Where will I live in Philadelphia? Can I work

there? Do free people live in their own houses? Will I meet any friends? I hope I will. I can't wait until I get there.

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