



# The Last Safe House: A Story of the Underground Railroad

*Barbara Greenwood*

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## **The Last Safe House: A Story of the Underground Railroad** Barbara Greenwood

This is the dramatic story of the Underground Railroad as seen through the eyes of two young girls -- Eliza, a runaway slave from a plantation in Virginia, and Johanna, whose family gives her refuge in St. Catharines, Canada West (now Ontario). In a unique mix of fact and fiction, each chapter is followed by background information and hands-on activities. Kids will learn about life on a cotton plantation, about abolitionists who fought to have slavery made illegal, and about the heroic actions of Canadians who sheltered runaway slaves. Beautifully detailed drawings accompany the text making The Last Safe House a comprehensive, all-in-one resource.

## **The Last Safe House: A Story of the Underground Railroad Details**

Date : Published August 1st 1998 by Kids Can Press (first published January 1st 1998)

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Author : Barbara Greenwood

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Academic, School, Childrens, Picture Books

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## From Reader Review The Last Safe House: A Story of the Underground Railroad for online ebook

**Lauren White says**

Good for grades 3-7

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**Stephanie says**

A good read and a good story.  
This is a nice addition to everyone's personal library.

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**Beth says**

I am not giving this book four stars on literary merit. I think this book deserves four stars because it does a nice job of teaching about the underground railroad through story. I will be using this in my classroom this year and will update when I see how this book goes over with my students.

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**Lyns says**

Very well detailed yet still child friendly

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**Jackie says**

Stories and snippets, along with historical facts, are accompanied by activities in *The Last Safe House: A Story of the Underground Railroad*. The Underground Railroad began around 1800 and lasted until 1865. It helped slave families escape to freedom with the help of other families who believed in freedom for all.

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**Thea says**

This is an amazing book for readers who like to read non-fiction.

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**Tonya says**

The Last Safe House is a wonderful read to help students understand what life was like for slaves and the people who helped them along the Underground Railroad. The author has done an outstanding job of

integrating historical fiction and providing factual information to accompany the story. I have used this book as a read aloud, and I was amazed by the depth of the conversations that were sparked by this piece of literature. The students were so engaged that they did not want me to stop reading! I also think this could be used for a book club. I would recommend it for students no younger than 10, due to the sensitive nature of the material. This book is a WOW book for me because of the various points of view it offers, and the manner in which it illustrates the bravery they exhibited during this most difficult time in American history.

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### **Debbie says**

Another great read aloud to teach kids about the Underground Railroad and the abolitionists who harbored runaways. I read this to my 4th grade class in about 1 week. After each chapter was a nonfiction section---it wasn't bad, but we had covered a lot of it already in class and I felt it broke up the story too much, so I just skipped over it. I would use this book again to teach elementary age kids about slavery and the Civil War era.

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### **Amber says**

Certainly this isn't the best children's book we've read, but the extras put into the five star category for us. There is a hands-on activity at the end of most chapters. My children loved making the lanterns and corn husk dolls. The history really came alive for them.

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### **Jordan-Nicole says**

in my reading class at school i got to read this book i love it

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### **Melanie says**

Excellent book for elementary students studying slavery and the Underground Railroad. Blends text style learning with a fictional story. Science subjects interspersed. Recipes and crafts included.

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### **Nicola Mansfield says**

Reason for Reading: Read aloud to my son as part of our history studies.

Summary: The story of a slave mother and her two children who escape from a southern plantation to St. Catharines, Canada via the Underground Railroad. The family is split up and the little girl, Eliza, is the first to arrive across the border at the Reids' house and the story concentrates on her and the youngest Reid girl as they spend time together. From Eliza's point of view we see the weight of slavery lift and are told about her past life through flashbacks. From Johanna Reid we see at first jealousy at this girl who is so eager to please, then understanding of what slavery really is. The two girls become friends and Johanna soon comes to realize that even in a 'free' county there are some two-faced people who treat the blacks in town differently.

The plot becomes more exciting as slave catchers come on the scene and through different ways the brother and mother finally make it to safety.

Comments: This book is set up exactly like Greenwood & Collins' Pioneer series of books. Between each chapter of the fictional story there is a non-fiction section which digs deeper into the subjects discussed. These sections often refer to the characters in the story and seamlessly join together. Each of these sections also includes an activity though they are less crafty than in previous books by this team. Here we have a few crafts, baking, singing, and storytelling. This is the first time I've read this title and I enjoyed even more than *The Pioneer Story*. The characters are real and we are shown the story from many different view points: the runaway slaves, the American Underground Railroad conductors, the Canadian freedom helpers, Canadian women and children with racist attitudes, we even see why the slave catchers would cross into Canada and try to take slaves back when they had no rights on this side of the border. Heather Collins' black and white drawings are very detailed and informative. An excellent book that takes you from the slave on the plantation, to the fugitive on the run, and finally to the free black in the city, working and sending their children to school.

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### **V-ann Davis says**

This book really makes you think of how many people risked their lives to be free. Really free. A great book for children AND adults.

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### **Deborah Harris says**

RL 5.30

AR Quiz No. 31201 EN Fiction

Accelerated Reader Quiz Information IL: MG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 3.0

Accelerated Reader Quiz Type Information AR Quiz Types: RP

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