**Themes (Harriet Tubman)**

**Section 1**

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| 00:00:00 | TEACHER: You learned a little bit about Harriet Tubman. And you have thought about words that could be used to describe her. This information is going to help you answer the lesson question, how is Harriet Tubman's character revealed in two poems? Before you read two poems about Harriet Tubman, you will need some information on how to discover what a poem is |
| 00:00:21 | saying about her character and her traits. |

**Section 2**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Let's define character and character traits. A character of an individual is the set of traits, especially moral or personality traits, that make a person an individual. A character trait, then, is a character or person's inner qualities. Some example of these types of traits are adjectives such as |
| 00:00:26 | intelligent, cautious, stubborn. Not everything about a person is a character trait. A person's character relates to the personality, or sense of morality, or other inner qualities. Character traits are not physical or outside of the person. For example then, these are not character traits, tall, brown-eyed, American. |
| 00:00:53 | These are something physical. Or something that does not have to do with the person's inner qualities. Now let's look at poems about Harriet Tubman and see if we can identify character traits of her. I'm going to read this poem out loud first, and you follow along. "By fire in heaven she was guided saved by stream and by |
| 00:01:15 | water reed by her terrible grimace of faith beautiful and defiant." Faith beautiful and defiant describe Harriet Tubman. These are character traits. Someone with faith beautiful usually depicts someone that is optimistic and determined in their cause. They're courageous in this act. Defiant means something that you resist. |
| 00:01:44 | So her character trait here is courageous and defiant. And it's explicitly stated in this first poem. Now let's look for character traits in this second poem. "Harriet Tubman didn't take no stuff, wasn't scared of nothing neither, didn't come in this world to be no slave and wasn't going to stay one either." Now we have to look for clues, basically. We have to draw conclusions about the descriptions that |
| 00:02:16 | the writer offers about Harriet Tubman. We have "didn't take no stuff." Well that's resisting something. That's also defiant. "Wasn't scared of nothing neither." Well that's courageous. And she wasn't going to stay a slave, so she's determined. These are character traits. |
| 00:02:39 | And we had to draw conclusions based on the descriptions offered by the author. In the first poem it was much easier. They were explicitly stated. Now you try matching descriptions of people's actions with character traits. |

**Section 5**

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| 00:00:00 | TEACHER: Take a look at this picture. It's called "The Eastern Storyteller." And the storyteller in a poem is referred to as the speaker. The speaker is the voice telling the poem. And it's important to know who the speaker is to help clarify who the poem's information is coming from and to better understand what the point has to say about the subject of the poem. |
| 00:00:24 | Now the speaker can be the poet, narrator, or a major or minor character in poem, or really anyone else that the poet decides on. And understanding who the speaker is can help you understand the viewpoint or perspective the poem expresses. Now it's important to understand the difference between the speaker in a poem and the subject of a poem. |
| 00:00:48 | The speaker of the poem is often confused with the subject of the poem. The speaker is the voice the words in the poem are coming from. And the subject is who or what those words are all about. Now see if you can distinguish between speaker and subject in a poem. |