**“The People Could Fly” pg. 914 in ELA Textbook Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Folktale**: A story composed orally and then passed from person to person by word of mouth. Folk tales originated among people who could neither read nor write.

**History Connection:** This story emerged from the era before the Civil War of 1860, when slavery was legal in the United States. Slavery was brutal. Slaves worked hard, from sunup to sundown. They were given little to eat; forced to live in shabby, filthy shacks; whipped and mistreated; forbidden to read or write; sold away from family; and denied the dignity of living as free human beings.

Slaves often created and passed along stories and songs to remind one another to never give up hope and to continue dreaming and fighting for freedom. Out of these songs and stories grew a literary tradition that included spirituals, folk tales, and narratives. Spirituals were songs that combined traditional African and European music and religious themes. Folk tales such as “The People Could Fly” were originally told orally but were later written down. Slave narratives were autobiographical accounts of the lives of individuals. Hundreds of slave narratives were published before the war by extraordinary men and women wishing to tell of their struggles.

**After you read the story in the book, answer the following questions:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Page 916: How does the Overseer’s treatment of Sarah compare with Toby’s treatment of her? |  |
| Page 916: Based on this story, that do these manacles symbolize or represent? (see picture on page) |  |
| Write down 1 example of **dialect** in the story. |  |
| Why does Hamilton, the author, use dialect in the story? Why use dialect instead of Standard English? |  |
| What would be different about this story if it were told by someone else? |  |

**Comprehension Check**

1. Why did the people leave their wings behind instead of taking them on the ship?

2. What was the overseer's job?

3. Why wasn't Sarah able to get up?

4. What happens to the words once they're spoken?

5. Why doesn't Toby take all the slaves away?

**Story Elements**

6. In what ways does Toby bring hope to the slaves?

7. What does this folk tale offer to the slaves who could not fly and to their children?

8.Evaluate the author's use of magic in this folk tale and the mood it creates. Would the folk tale be as effective without the use of magic? Would the mood be different if the slaves had escaped without the use of magic?

9. How would you react to hearing a story like this told to you by your grandmother or grandfather? What would it tell you about who you are and where you came from?

10. What are some of the **words and phrases** you found that helped create **mood** in "The People Could Fly"? What mood or moods do these words and phrases evoke? What emotion do you think best describes the mood of the story?

**Writer's Journal:** Pretend you are the master. Write a short journal entry explaining your reaction to seeing Toby and the other slaves fly away.

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**Illustrator: Illustrate any part of the story using details and color. Caption the picture below.**

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