

“Freedom or Death” Quiz

Directions: Read the article “Freedom or Death” in the March/April 2017 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Which of the following is a main idea of the story “Freedom or Death”?

- (A) Hundreds of thousands of soldiers died in the Civil War.
- (B) Robert Smalls became a good businessman.
- (C) Robert Smalls freed himself and other slaves.
- (D) Piloting a ship is challenging, but Robert Smalls did it.

2. Why did the harbor guards watch “in astonishment” as the *Planter* headed out to sea?

- (A) The ship headed out to sea every day.
- (B) The ship was heading towards enemy ships.
- (C) Robert had taken off his hat.
- (D) The ship was moving extremely slowly.

3. Why didn’t Robert’s mother want to try to escape?

- (A) Trying to escape was dangerous.
- (B) No slave had ever managed to escape.
- (C) Without her, the McKees would starve.
- (D) Mrs. McKee was her best friend.

4. Which line from the story supports the answer to question 3?

- (A) “He was a piece of property . . .”
- (B) “. . . for every slave that managed to escape, hundreds more died or were captured . . .”
- (C) “Slaves could not legally marry . . .”
- (D) “Except they weren’t slaves anymore.”

5. You can infer that Robert’s feelings toward Mr. and Mrs. McKee were _____.

- (A) affectionate; the McKees were kind people
- (B) bitter; he couldn’t like slaveholders
- (C) fearful; the McKees often whipped him
- (D) grateful; the McKees gave him his freedom

6. Which sentence from the story supports the answer to question 5?

- (A) “But Robert’s mother made sure that her son understood what it meant to be a slave.”
- (B) “With those shots, the Civil War began.”
- (C) “To Robert, this was intolerable.”
- (D) “He took care of his former owner until she died.”

7. Which of the following convinced Robert that he had to escape to the North?

- (A) In the Civil War, Robert was forced to fight against ending slavery.
- (C) His wife, Hannah, came up with a plan to try to free the family.
- (B) The captain of the *Planter* whipped him.
- (D) He wanted to start a business in the North.

8. Which of the following did Robert NOT do after the Civil War?

- (A) run a business
- (B) serve in the U.S. Congress
- (C) take care of Mrs. McKee
- (D) open a restaurant

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the article.

9. How did seeing a slave auction when he was a boy affect Robert later in his life?

10. Think about the things Robert did after he gained freedom. What can you infer about the kind of person he was?