



# Henry's Freedom Box

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History  
Grades 3-5



## Introduction

The fight for freedom is at the heart of American history. In the book *Henry's Freedom Box*, we witness Henry fight for his freedom. It is through the help of "friends" that Henry is able to make it to freedom. The students will write an opinion piece taking a stance on if they think that the "friends" should have risked their freedom to ensure that Henry was free.

## Learning Objectives

- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1.a](#)) Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.
- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1.b](#)) Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

## Materials Needed

- [Video of Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine](#)

## Procedure

1. Have the students listen to the read-aloud video of *Henry's Freedom Box* by Ellen Levine.
2. After listening to the read-aloud, provide the students a few minutes to jot about if they think that the friends should have risked their freedom to help Henry. Tell the students that they must provide at least three reasons as to why or why not.
3. The students should partner up and share their opinions with their partner. The partners should provide encouragement, but should not try to change the speaker's mind.
4. A few students should report out with their opinions and reasons.
5. Have the students write an opinion piece where they agree or disagree with the friends' decision to assist Henry in escaping to freedom.

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**Writing Prompt:** The fight for freedom has been at the core of our history. Throughout the fight, friends from many races, religions, and backgrounds have assisted to ensure that all men are treated equally. Some of the people who helped did so knowing that if they were caught, they could risk their freedom. Write an opinion paper agreeing or disagreeing with the friends' decision to assist Henry in obtaining his freedom.

## Evaluation

Please use the included essay [rubric](#) to grade student writing.