Harriet Tubman

Araminta Ross, famously known as Harriet Tubman, was born in the year 1820, in Dorchester County, Maryland. Her parents, Benjamin Ross and Harriet Green, were slaves at the time (“Harriet Tubman,” *Contemporary Black Biography*). She changed her name to Harriet Tubman, in honor of her mother, after she got married to her husband (“Harriet Tubman: Mini Bio”). At a young age, Harriet was traded between plantations and was prone to violence almost all her life. The only concept she knew about life was to work hard and listen to her owners (“Harriet Tubman: Mini Bio”).One day, she witnessed a slave escaping from his owner and the owner asked Harriet to stop him. The owner threw a 2 pound weight to Harriet’s head for not corresponding to his command (“Harriet Tubman,”2014). This blow caused excruciating headaches, severe seizures, and vivid hallucinations for the rest of her life. At one point, she believed that she saw God, and he told her that she had a mission in life. This sparked a light- bulb in Harriet’s mind, wanting everyone to be free. Harriet wanted to free her fellow slaves but she endured so much violence first (“Harriet Tubman,” 2014). Harriet, later in life, told her story on how she was lashed five times in one day. She would forever carry those scars, as well as the memories. Harriet Tubman ended up becoming one of the most influential African- American, as well as an influential woman in the world. Harriet Tubman endured pain, and the possiblity of being caught by the officials, for the freedom of everyone. Being known as one of the most influential African- American women, Harriet Tubman freed slaves and risked her life so that everyone could experience freedom and equality; this would become her American Dream.

At a young age, Tubman knew that no one should be treated like an animal. In her mind everyone was equal, no matter their skin color. The first incident she experienced injustice was when she was running errands for her slave master, young Araminta witnessed a slave running away from the plantation ("Harriet Tubman," *UXL Biographies*). She was astonished by the fact that someone was running away. Her slave master asked her to stop the runaway slave, but instead stood in between them, causing her to get hit by a 2 pound weight ("Harriet Tubman," *UXL Biographies*). That impact of the 2 pound weight caused an indentation to her forehead, giving her vivid hallucinations and major headaches for the rest of her life. If I had to deal with that for all my life, I would not even able to go back to work or even correspond correctly, that just shows how strong Harriet Tubman really was. After getting hit by the weight, she started to have hallucinations that were very surreal. Tubman stated that God spoke to her in a dream, saying that she has to free the slaves and that it is her forsaken duty to complete this mission ("Harriet Tubman," *History*). This influenced Harriet Tubman to free her slaves because if God tells you to do something, you have to do it. Tubman ran away to the North first, before all her family (“Harriet Tubman: Mini Bio”). After she got to the North, she began to hear stories on how her sisters children were going to be put up for auction. Tubman did not want to see her sister in misery nor did she want her nieces and nephews separated. She traveled back to the South, knowing that she could get caught by the officials, but her determination was too strong to allow her to think of that. While freeing her family, she began to think of what God told her. She left her family in Auburn, New York, and returned to the South to free the slaves (“Harriet Tubman: Mini Bio”). After freeing almost 300 slaves, Harriet Tubman felt like God’s message was very clear and she was honored that God spoke to her. Even in old age, she still continued the equality movement, supporting Martin Luther King Sr. (“Harriet Tubman,” *Contemporary Black Biography*).

For everyone’s dream to come true there must be obstacles in their way. Harriet Tubman had many, especially since she was runaway slave and freeing slaves at the same time. Even though Tubman was a free woman, she still went to the South to help her people out (“Harriet Tubman,” 2014). While going down, Tubman started to hear rumors about a new law for runaway fugitives. The law stated that the runaway’s slave master could come to the North and take you back, no matter if you were free in the North (“Harriet Tubman,” 2014). The new law scared some of the slaves that Tubman was rescuing because they now think that they are never going to be free. Harriet’s main plan was to send them to North because that’s where she thought they would be free. So instead Harriet leaded them to Canada, where there was no slavery nor was the Fugitive Law in place (“Harriet Tubman: Mini Bio”). Tubman felt secure leaving the slaves in Canada because she knew that once they were there, they would forever be free.

Even though the new law changed their course direction, Harriet still had to deal with the children and the lack of food along the way (“Harriet Tubman: Mini Bio”). The slaves packed enough food to go to New York, but since the course changed to Canada, the food became very scarce. Not having enough food for everyone is pretty bad, but imagine having a crying baby along the way. The crying babies would give out your location as well as the chance of getting caught. To help out with the crying babies, Tubman created a medicine that would make the kids drowsy and eventually makes them fall asleep (“Harriet Tubman: Mini Bio”). No one would like to be drugged in general, imagine being drugged by Harriet Tubman. You do not know what is in the medicine; there could probably some type of poison that could kill you. Tubman had to do what she had to do to assure that no one gets caught, so I could understand why she would drug the babies. Harriet Tubman made it very clear that the most important thing was to free the slaves and get them to the North.

Harriet Tubman was successful on making her dreams come true. She was able to free her family as well as hundreds of other slaves ("Harriet Tubman," History).By the time of the Civil War; Tubman freed more than 300 slaves to Canada. Tubman was not done yet, she worked as a nurse for the South, helping both black and white men ("Harriet Tubman," History). The Union government even hired her to be a spy, because Tubman had knowledge on the cotton warehouses. Since Tubman knew a lot about the South, this allowed her to help the Union to the fullest (“Harriet Tubman,” 2014). After working so hard for all her life, she finally decided to settle down and live her life. Even though Harriet Tubman did so much for the African- American community, but she was not acknowledged at the moment. Now, there is a statue of her in Harlem, New York, created by Alison Saar ("Harriet Tubman," History). Before her death, Tubman wrote a novel called "Scenes in the life of Harriet Tubman" as well as Tubman creating a home for poor black people in Auburn, New York. One of Harriet Tubman’s most famous quote was “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world” (“Harriet Tubman Quotes").

Works Cited

"Harriet Tubman." *History*. Tiffany R.L. Patterson, 1991. Web. 6 Feb. 2014. <http://www.history.com/topics/harriet-tubman>.

"Harriet Tubman." *Contemporary Black Biography*. Vol. 9. Detroit: Gale, 1995. *Student Resources in Context*. Web. 3 Feb. 2014.

"Harriet Tubman." *UXL Biographies*. Detroit: U\*X\*L, 2003. *Student Resources in Context*. Web. 3 Feb. 2014.

"Harriet Tubman." 2014. The Biography Channel website. Feb 04 2014, 08:54 <http://www.biography.com/people/harriet-tubman-9511430>.

"Harriet Tubman: Mini Bio." *Youtube*. Bio, 25 Jan. 2010. Web. 6 Feb. 2014. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmsNGrkbHm4>.

"Harriet Tubman Quotes." *BrainyQuotes*. BookRags Media Network, 2001. Web. 8 Apr. 2014. <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/h/harriettub310306.html>.