



MY ESCAPE FROM SLAVERY

Read the following excerpts from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, the autobiography of Harriet Jacobs. When you are done, write a response to the question below. Use the back of this sheet, if needed.

“THE CONDUCTOR TOOK ME IN HIS BOAT, rowed out to a vessel not far distant, and hoisted me on board...They said I was to remain on board till near dawn, and then they would hide me in Snaky Swamp... My fear of snakes had been increased by the venomous bite I had received, and I dreaded to enter this hiding place. But I was in no situation to choose, and I gratefully accepted the best that my poor, persecuted friends could do for me.”

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“A SMALL SHED had been added to my grandmother’s house years ago. Boards were laid across the joists at the top, and between these boards and the roof was a very small garret, never occupied by anything but rats and mice...The garret was only nine feet long and seven wide...To this hole I was conveyed as soon as I entered the house. The air was stifling; the darkness total. A bed had been spread on the floor. I could sleep quite comfortably on one side; but the slope was so sudden that I could not turn on the other without hitting the roof...It seemed horrible to sit or lie in a cramped position day after day, without one gleam of light. Yet I would have chosen this, rather than my lot as a slave...”

Question: Imagine that you are one of the few people permitted to speak with Harriet while she was hiding. What would you say or bring to her?
