

# The **TIME TRAVEL ADVENTURES** of **ARA**

**HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**



**Resource and Study Kit for Established  
Institutions (Libraries, Museums,  
Community Centers)**

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**This kit offers strategies for institutions to utilize "The Time Travel Adventures of Ara: Harriet Tubman and The Underground Railroad" to educate visitors, develop programs, and highlight local history.**

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- **Book and Series Profile**

- Title, Author, Illustrator, Series Context.

- Unique Selling Points: An engaging, accessible introduction to complex Black history topics for young audiences. Utilizes time travel as a narrative device to make history relatable and exciting. Strong focus on Canadian history, specifically the significant role of St. Catharines and Ontario in the Underground Railroad. Features a renowned historical figure, Harriet Tubman, and introduces concepts of courage, freedom, and intergenerational legacy.

- Author's Mission: Channon Oyeniran is dedicated to empowering youth through knowledge of Black History.

## • Program and Exhibition Development:

### ◦ Library Programs:

- Children's Book Club: Organize reading groups focusing on "The Time Travel Adventures of Ara" to facilitate discussions on history, courage, and social justice.
- Author Event: Host Channon Oyeniran, who is a public speaker and Black History consultant, for readings and discussions.
- "Time Travel to 1860" Workshop: Interactive sessions where children can explore what life was like in 1860, using props, period clothing, and maps.
- Local History Display: Create a dedicated display featuring the book, alongside other resources on Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad, and the history of St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

### ◦ Museum/Historical Society Programs:

- Guided Tours: Develop tours that connect the book's narrative to actual historical sites in St. Catharines (e.g., Salem Chapel BME, Harriet Tubman statue on Henry Street) and Niagara Falls, highlighting their significance in the Underground Railroad.
- Interactive Exhibits: Create hands-on exhibits that simulate elements of the Underground Railroad journey, such as hidden passages or the "drinking gourd" navigation. Focus on the experiences of freedom-seekers and the roles of agents and conductors.
- Educational Workshops: Offer workshops exploring themes like the abolition movement, the details of Underground Railroad missions, or the daily lives of people in Canada West in the 1860s.
- Family History Days: Encourage families to explore their own heritage, connecting it to broader historical narratives, similar to Ara learning about his family's history.

## • Partnership and Outreach Opportunities:

- Schools and School Boards: Collaborate to integrate the book into elementary school history and social studies curricula. Offer field trip opportunities and classroom resources.
- Local Tourism and Government: Partner to promote historical tourism related to the Underground Railroad, using the book to engage younger visitors and highlight the heritage of St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.
- Black History and Cultural Organizations: Work with these groups to co-host events, share resources, and ensure historical accuracy and cultural sensitivity in programming.
- Genealogy Societies: Connect the story's theme of family history with resources for exploring personal ancestry.

- **Key Themes for Institutional Focus:**

- Harriet Tubman's Canadian Connection: Emphasize her work and residence in St. Catharines, Ontario. Highlight her designation as a Person of National Significance by the Government of Canada.

- Canada as the "Promised Land": Detail the historical context of Canada West as a haven for freedom-seekers.

- Intergenerational Memory and Legacy: Use Ara's bracelet and Harriet's pocket watch as symbols of history passed down through generations.

- Community Role in Social Justice: Showcase how communities like St. Catharines organized to support freedom-seekers (e.g., St. Catharines Refugee Slaves' Friend Society, Fugitive Aid Society).

- Resources: The book's glossary and the author's reference list of sources can be valuable tools for developing educational materials.

**Downloadable Resources:** To support diverse programming, institutions can utilize free downloadable colouring sheets available on the book's website for children's activities. Additionally, a more detailed book brief can be downloaded for staff training, exhibit research, and public information materials. Please email visit [www.TheTimeTravelAdventuresOfAra.com](http://www.TheTimeTravelAdventuresOfAra.com) for more information