Under the Quilt of Night

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Paintings by James E. Ransome

A Discussion Toolkit created by HWS FIRST YEAR SEMINAR 173
There are many ways you can write a poem. Your poem can be short or long, and it can rhyme, but it doesn’t have to. Write a poem below about how it would feel to run under the quilt of night, like the narrator. Draw a picture to go with your poem.
Describe Yourself

Describe yourself in a paragraph. How would you react to what the narrator faces? Do you have things in common with her, or are you different?

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Backstory
We don’t learn much about the narrator’s life in this book. Can you imagine what did the narrator did before this story begins? Invent a backstory for her and write it below.

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Similes

Similes are used to compare one thing to another using “like” or “as.” In the book, the narrator says she is “hiding as still as a rock.” Write three similes comparing yourself to an animal or object and draw a picture to go with the simile. Example: I am sneaky like a fox. I am as fast as a rabbit. I am as tall as a tree.

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2. ____________________________
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3. ____________________________
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Similes are used to compare one thing to another using “like” or “as.”
Quilt Maze

In the story, the slaves use a blue quilt with tumbling blocks to guide them to freedom.

Navigate this quilt maze to freedom.
Word Search

ESCAPE FREEDOM NIGHT
NORTH POEM QUILT
RAILROAD RUNNING SLAVERY
Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. Color of the center squares on most quilts
2. The runaways' destination
5. What the runaways want
7. The author's last name is _______.
9. When the runaways must hide

Down
1. The illustrator's last name is _______.
3. The runaways hide behind ____ from the morning until dark.
4. The runaways must ____ at first to get away from the farm.
6. People who go north to find freedom
8. The runaways will get _____ if they are caught.