

George Moses Horton, *An inspirational bard of the South*

By Miranda Murray

STUDY GUIDE

1. What made George Moses Horton's accomplishments noteworthy?
 - A. He was enslaved.
 - B. He was orphaned.
 - C. He received no schooling.
 - D. He maintained close relationships with influential citizens.

2. Which was a common practice for slaves?
 - A. Slaves attended school.
 - B. Slaves bought their freedom.
 - C. Slaves took the last names of their owners.
 - D. Slaves traveled without restriction in their communities.

3. Under what condition was George Moses Horton allowed to travel to Chapel Hill?
 - A. He shared his earnings from writing with James Horton.
 - B. He carried messages from home to students at the university.
 - C. He sold produce for James Horton while he was in Chapel Hill.
 - D. He returned books that James Horton had borrowed from the university library.

4. How did George Moses Horton earn money for himself at the university?
 - A. He sold his short book of poetry.
 - B. Publishers paid him to write poems.
 - C. Students paid him to compose poems for women back home.

- D. He worked odd jobs that were available during the time he had in Chapel Hill.
5. How did one patron succeed in helping George Moses Horton?
- A. Caroline Lee Hentz sent his poems for publication.
 - B. NC Governor John Owen bought Horton's freedom.
 - C. George Moses Horton profited from a book of poetry, published by a patron.
 - D. George Moses Horton's owner cut his hire-out fee, so he could work and earn more.
6. How did George Moses Horton gain his freedom?
- A. His owner freed him.
 - B. A patron bought his freedom.
 - C. Union troops freed him at the end of the Civil War.
 - D. He purchased his freedom from profits earned by writing.
7. Which trait best describes George Moses Horton, according to this profile?
- A. Anxiety-prone
 - B. Fun-loving
 - C. Hardworking
 - D. Quiet
8. Which words are synonyms or have similar meanings?
- A. patron, poet, orator
 - B. patron, player, owner
 - C. patron, property, poem
 - D. patron, mentor, sponsor

9. Which relationship is similar to the one below?

bard: poetry

- A. slave: owner
- B. singer: music
- C. student: college
- D. town: university

Words to learn:

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences and add a second sentence that clarifies the meaning, as shown in the first example.

1. George Moses Horton ____orated_____ love poems. He spoke the poems; he didn't write them.
2. N.C. Gov. John Owen _____ George Moses Horton.
3. His owner charged George Moses Horton a_____ fee to leave the plantation.
4. After the war ended, Union troops _____ out of service.

word bank

1. befriended--
2. hire-out--
3. mustered--
4. orated--

In what current situations might the words from the word bank be used? Think of other sentences or ways to act out the words.

EVALUATIONS:

Respond to the prompts in one page (or more). If needed, conduct research to obtain additional facts to support your analyses.

1. What emotion does the quote from "On Liberty and Slavery" communicate?

Alas! And am I born for this,
To wear this slavish chain?

Deprived of all creative bliss,

Condemned to toil and pain.

Is there anyone in today's news whose life might cause the same or a similar response?

2. No one knows what happened to George Moses Horton after 1966, Based on what you know about him, what might he have done? Where might he have gone? If you were he, what would you have done?
3. Write a poem about George Moses Horton. Take his approach; try an acrostic. Write one or more of his names vertically on the page and write words and phrases about him to complete an acrostic.

Now try to write an acrostic about someone else. Try to speak the poem without writing it down first.

NEWS CONNECTIONS:

1. Identify people in the news who have overcome obstacles to achieve their goals.
2. Identify people in the news who keep trying, even after their early efforts fail.
3. Identify any poets or writers who receive attention in newspapers and other media.
4. In the news, find examples of people encouraging, teaching and/or working for others.
5. Horton dormitory on UNC-CH's campus was named for George Moses Horton. How are people honored? Find examples in the news. Check obituaries for words of love and tribute and for requests for donations to charities, in lieu or in place of flowers.
6. Write an acrostic about yourself. Write your name vertically on a sheet of paper. Pull words from the newspaper that start with the letters of your name and tell something about you.
7. Write an acrostic about someone in the news (Obama, for example) or a job (nurse), product (tire), place (Raleigh) or quality (hope) in the news. Draw words, phrases, illustrations and ideas from your newspaper that tell something about the person, place or thing you chose from the news.

Written by Sandra Cook and Cynthia McFadden

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