

LITERARY DISCUSSION OF CROSSING TO FREEDOM

by Virginia Frances Schwartz

FORMAT OF THE BOOK

This book includes several formats. How are each of these formats included?
What format do you think the book is primarily?

MEMOIR: A character writes about a small part of their life.

NOVEL: A character has a problem and tries to solve it.

ODYSSEY: A character embarks on an adventure to strange new places and has incredible encounters.

JOURNEY: A character goes on a trip in search of something.

CHARACTERS

Main characters

Contrast the characters of Solomon and Levi.

Did these 2 main characters always get along?

What qualities helped Levi to successfully lead his fellow slaves on the Underground Railroad?

What flaws did Levi have?

Old Ezekiel

See Author's Note on pg. 230 English Edition, pg. 310 French Edition

Tell why you think Old Ezekiel was a Griot.

How did Old Ezekiel mentor Solomon?

SETTING

What surprised you most about the history of an Ontario town that was revealed in this book?

In what places were black Canadians most welcomed in 1857 Canada West?

What kinds of jobs did the newly arrived black immigrants do?

IMMIGRATION

What problems did the newly arrived black immigrants face that all immigrants face?

What help was available in Canada West for these immigrants?

How do you think the black immigrants resolved their problems?

THEMES OF THE BOOK

Many themes run through this book. Here are some of them. Can you add any more?

Pick a theme and tell how this theme runs through the book.

Slavery

Immigration

Loss

Friendship

Hardship. Ghosts

Transformation

Freedom

Prejudice

Longing

Family

Things not being what they seem

I hope you enjoyed reading *Crossing to Freedom*.

VFS