



## A reader's guide to *Meet Addy*

Addy Walker and her family are enslaved on a plantation in North Carolina in 1864. When her father and brother are sold, Addy and her mother make a daring escape—but they must leave behind Addy's baby sister. Her cries could cost them their lives! Their journey is full of danger and starting a new life in the North isn't easy. Through it all, Addy works hard to make her biggest dream come true: having her whole family together in freedom.

1. Addy's brother, Sam, tried to run away, but he was caught. While Sam is being whipped as punishment, Poppa says, "There's always freedom inside your head, Addy" (p. 3). What does Poppa mean? How can someone living in slavery still be free?
2. Momma tells Addy, "People can do wrong for such a long time, they don't even know it's wrong no more" (p. 16). What does Momma mean? How does that apply to events happening in the world today? What wrongs have been going on for a long time?
3. While she and Momma are running away, Addy knows she has to hide her feelings (p. 24). Why is this necessary when Addy and Momma have to cross the river (p. 29) and when they encounter the Confederate soldiers (p. 34)?
4. Of all the trials Addy faces during her escape, what do you think was the most difficult? What would be the hardest for you to do?
5. After they arrive in Philadelphia, Addy and Momma go to Mrs. Ford's dress shop. Why was Addy brave to say something to Mrs. Ford at that first meeting (p. 46)? How does Addy and Mrs. Ford's relationship change during the story?
6. Why does Addy risk her friendship with Sarah to try to befriend Harriet? If you were Addy, would you want to be Harriet's friend? Why or why not?
7. Addy and Momma are saving money for a lamp they desperately need. But Addy decides to use half her tip money to buy a scarf for Momma. Do you think she's making a good decision? Why or why not?
8. It's cold and dark in the garret, yet when Mrs. Ford asks how things are, Momma says everything is fine. Why do you think Momma said that instead of mentioning the broken window? If you were Addy, would you have said something to Mrs. Ford or would you have kept quiet?

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9. Addy decides to give the money she'd been saving for the scarf to the Freedmen's Fund instead. Why does she change her mind?
10. Momma tells Addy, "Freedom got a cost. It cost money and hard work and heartache" (p. 51). In what ways does Addy pay for her freedom with money? How does she pay for freedom with hard work and heartache?