



This one-man play brings to life the powerful story of John P. Parker, a former enslaved man who dedicated his life to helping other enslaved people escape through the Underground Railroad. Parker's tale is woven together with interviews from contemporary immigrants and community members who tell their stories of searching for haven in modern-day America. Written by David Gonzalez, with performance and additional text by Daniel Carlton, and blues guitar music performed by Gonzalez, this production is both an exploration and celebration of the continuing quest for justice and freedom in America.

The performance is approximately 48 minutes long. You can watch it all at once or it can be broken up into the following 3 digital "chapters" with the accompanying discussion questions.

**Chapter 1 - Approx. 14.5 minutes. Start of show until 14 minutes 28 seconds.**

What did you notice about the performer's facial expressions throughout the story? Did he use different facial expressions for different characters? Explain.

How did John P. Parker become a free man? What did he do once he had his freedom? What risks did he take to help others become free? How would you describe his character?

Sylvia shares her journey of coming to America and the way some people treat her when she arrives, particularly something she calls "the Look". What is the look? How does this make her feel? How do you think she responds internally (in her head) versus externally (in public)?

**Chapter 2 - Approx. 21 minutes. Start at 14 minutes 29 until 32 minutes 31 seconds.**

How does the performer use his body and pantomime to tell the story? How did he make imaginary objects come to life? What objects do you remember from the story?

Notice how often the performer's voice changes during the telling of the story. What is the "narrator's voice" and what are the "character" voices? How are they different? How does he use silence?

In Yusef's story, Yusef's Grandmother says that there are times when you just have to "throw yourself into goodness with abandon. It may seem crazy but keep love in your heart." What do you think that means?

In Erica's story, she says even now she can still taste the bread of kindness... what do you think that means? What did that gift mean to her?

"The bread of kindness" is a moment that uses the sense of taste to bring the story to life. What other sensory details (moments that use visuals, sound, smell, taste, or touch) do you remember from the stories shared so far? Listen for more as the play continues.

**Chapter 3 - Approx. 16 minutes. Start at 32 minutes 32 seconds until end of show.**

Finding North uses blues guitar music throughout the performance. How does the music make each scene feel? What would the story have been like without the music?

Grandpa says that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. What do you think that means? Do you agree or disagree? What else could "the price of freedom" be?

Daniel used an acting exercise to help return to himself, to feeling human. What can you do to ground or center yourself in stressful moments?

Who was your favorite character and why? What story resonated with you the most? Why?

The play begins by describing the position of the North Star in the night sky and says "It shines the world over, so part of it belongs to you. People have been following that light for a long time." What all does the North Star come to represent over the course of the performance? When things are hard for you, what do you use as your "North Star" to help guide you?

What does freedom mean to you? to your family? to your community?