



# The Abbey

# KINDNESS

When kindness prevails:  
what is the greatest story ever told?

Phoebe, Lower IV (Year 8)

©M. ROSA



# When kindness prevails: what is the greatest story ever told?

Phoebe, Lower IV (Year 8)

Though there have been many extraordinary stories told, there are a few that really catch the eye. A story that I find extremely brave and kind is that of Araminta Ross, who we now know as Harriet Tubman. Harriet was born in 1822 to an enslaved family in Maryland, USA. She and her family were 'owned' by the Brodess family. During this time people thought that enslaved people were property they owned.

Harriet began working alongside her family at only five years old. She would normally be lent to neighbours to help them with whatever they needed doing. She was treated unfairly by whoever was in charge of her. When she turned twelve she began backbreaking work in the fields.

In her late 20s in 1849, she managed to escape by herself to Pennsylvania. Nobody knows exactly how she got to Pennsylvania but it is likely that she would have used the 'underground railroad', which was a secret network for slaves. Inside this network conductors would direct slaves to hiding places or stations to help them to get to freedom in the north. It is thought that it was during her time in the railroad that she changed her name to Harriet Tubman, most likely to cover her escape.

When she arrived in Philadelphia she soon found work and made friends, but she was not completely safe yet. Slave catchers patrolled the area and commissioners were instructed to return any runaway slaves to their owners. Luckily, Harriet was never discovered. Over the next eleven years she made approximately 19 round trips through the underground. It is believed that she rescued 70 slaves, including the majority of her remaining family. Throughout her lifetime it is thought that she saved around 300 slaves.

I think this story shows extreme kindness and courage as everytime she went in and out of the underground railroad she was at great risk of getting caught. But she was very brave and persevered and helped to improve the lives of over 300 people.





The Abbey



[www.theabbey.co.uk](http://www.theabbey.co.uk)

