**Step 3: Those who diced with death ANSWERS**

**Exercise 1 :**

* In the TV series entitled *Underground*, the slaves supported each other in order to organise an escape. The station masters and more generally the abolitionists of the South were a great support; they helped the slaves who intended to run away, they hid them… at the risk of their lives, as slave owners and bounty hunters could be extremely violent.
* In the biography of Harriet Tubman, we learn about her incredible life; her injury was actually a protection as she stayed with her father and learnt a job which made her physically strong. She escaped on her own and came back 13 times to the South in order to conduct many other slaves out of their condition, thus earning her nickname of “black Moses”. She took some risky action during the Civil War and kept fighting for the rights of women.
* In the video about *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, we learn about the female author Harriet Beecher Stowe who, as a white woman, took a stand in favour of the slaves. The novel was extremely popular when it came out and it influenced the times greatly. For the first time, people could read a story about slaves described as human beings, suffering from the same emotions as any other human beings. She humanized slavery and made it unbearable for a great number of people. It also brought up a lot of criticism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncle_Tom%27s_Cabin#Reactions_to_the_novel> for more details.

**Exercise 2:** Whether they are fictional or real characters, they all **stood up against** slavery. At the time, it was a **burning issue** and the nation was **split**; Harriet Tubman and Harriet Beecher Stowe were **spokeswomen** who really **made a difference**. The fictional characters tell the tales of real people; many white people are remembered for their **support** to the slaves (hiding them in **wagons**, welcoming them in their homes…), just like the characters in the TV series *Underground*. As for Harriet Tubman, she was **awarded** a $20 pension at the end of her life. And Harriet Beecher Stowe took a stand in this **politicized** question.

**Exercise 3:** the people who stood up for the slaves were taking risks. They must have felt outraged by the situation. They must have believed that they had to do something about it, otherwise, nothing would changed. They must have felt frightened of being killed. They must have felt afraid for their loved ones.

If I had lived at that time, I’m not sure how I would have acted. I probably wouldn’t have owned any slaves. I would have committed to the abolitionist cause. I would have tried my best to support the runaways. If I had owned a house on the Underground Railroad, I would have been a station master; I would have welcomed escapees in my house; I would have hid them, fed them and given them shelter for them to rest.

*Ici, on peut faire une courte réflexion sur la langue sur le conditionnel pass*é *et on peut combiner cet exercice avec le* ***“Grammar at work”*** *p. 192 (les subordonnées en “if”).*

*Légende :* IF + HAD + V-en, WOULD + HAVE + V-en

**Script des vidéos**

**Titre de la vidéo :** Group 1 : *Underground (1 minute)*

***Noah****: So if I wanna try to run I have to check to find a connection to the freedom train.*

***Free black man****: The biggest weapon the Underground has is secrecy.*

***John Hawkes****: We can make a real difference.*

***Slave Catcher****: Seen any runaways around here?*

***August Pullman****: You know I wouldn’t tell you if I had.*

***Noah****: Plan is simple: we figure a way off the Mas’er land, we protect each other on the run (…)*

***Moses****: As long as we’re together, we can do anything.*

***Ernestine****: I know you was planning to run!*

***Sam****:You’ll run away with us?*

***Rosalee****: I’m really scared…*

***Cato****: You get caught or not, it’s gonna be the slaves left behind that’s gonna pay the price.*

***Noah****: When we run ain’t no white man gonna be able to stop us!*

***Noah****: RUN!*

***Slave man****: That you run, and that you follow that map; and you’re a free man.*

***Voiceover****: Underground Premieres Wednesday March 9th on WGN America*

**Titre de la vidéo :** Group 2 : “Go up, Moses” (3’41 minutes)

*Harriet Tubman was born Araminta Ross in Dorchester County, Maryland in the Early 1820s. Born into chattel slavery, Araminta or Minty, was the fifth of nine children. Two of Minty’s older sisters were sold to a chain gang. Even as a small child, Minty was hired out to different owners, who subjected her to whippings and punishment. Young Minty’s life changed forever on an errand to a neighborhood store. There, an overseer threw a two-pound weight at a fugitive enslaved person, missed, and struck Minty instead. Her injury caused her to experience sleeping spells, which we know of today as narcolepsy, for the rest of her life. Minty’s owner tried to sell her. But there were no buyers for an enslaved person who fell into sleeping spells. She was instead put to work with her father, Ben Ross, who taught her how to lumber. Lumbering increased Minty’s physical strength and put her in touch with free black sailors who shipped the wood to the North. From them, Minty learned about the secret communications that occurred along trade routes. Information that would prove invaluable later in her life. In this mixed atmosphere of free and enslaved blacks working side by side, Minty met John Tubman, a free black man she married in 1844. After marriage, she renamed herself Harriet, after her mother. Harriet Tubman’s owner died in 1849. When his widow planned to sell off her enslaved human beings, Harriet feared she would be sold away from everyone she loved. She had heard of an “Underground Railroad”, a secret network of safe houses, boat captains, and wagon drivers, willing to harbor fugitive enslaved people on their way north. So, Tubman fled with two of her brothers, Ben and Harry. They eventually turned back fearing they were lost. But in one of her sleeping spells, Harriet dreamed that she could fly like a bird. Looking down below, she saw the path to liberation. And in the autumn of 1849, she set out on her own, following the North Star to Pennsylvania and to freedom. Tubman returned to the South 13 times to free her niece, brothers, parents and many others. She earned the nickname Black Moses and worked diligently with fellow abolitionists to help enslaved people escape, first to the North, and later to Canada. Harriet Tubman worked as a Union army nurse, scout and spy during the Civil War. In 1863, she became the first woman in United States history to plan and lead a military raid, liberating nearly 700 enslaved persons in South Carolina. (...) In 1888, Tubman became more active in the fight for women’s right to vote. In 1896, she appeared at the founding convention of the National Association of Colored Women in Washington D.C., and later, at a women’s suffrage meeting in Rochester New York. There, she told the audience: “I was a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and I can say what many others cannot. I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger.” As her fame grew, various friends and allies helped her in the fight to collect a veteran’s pension for her service in the Union Army. In 1899, she was finally granted $20 a month. In a fitting twist of fate, the United States Treasury announced in 2016 that Tubman’s image will appear on a redesigned twenty-dollar bill. Harriet Tubman died on March 10th, 1913. Even on her deathbed at age 91, she kept the freedom of her people in mind. Her final words were: “I go away to prepare a place for you.”*

**Titre de la vidéo :** Group 3 : Harriet Beecher Stowe (1’42)

***Sharon Grimberg****: Harriet Beecher Stowe, who is probably one of the best known abolitionists because she wrote* Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, was a young mother who lost her son. Her son Charlie died of cholera. She kind of connected that lost, the lost of her child, with the slave mothers’ lost of their children. She wrote the book that really changed the hearts and minds of many Americans because she put slavery in very human strong terms. She really humanized the experience of slavery for many Americans. And this really went over people in writing that book.*

***Kate Lyn Sheil:*** *Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” shortly after one of her children had passed away. But she had been sort of – it had been bubbling in her for quite a while and after her son passed away she poured all of that emotion in life and energy into the book. She said that she didn’t feel as if she had written it she felt somebody else was sort of giving her this message to put on to the page.*

*Hopefully, people who watch the show will take away from the sense that she was a real person. And that I think it is easy for the humanity of historical figures to sort of get lost over the course of time, but that she was just an ordinary woman who was able to create a piece of art that then genuinely had an effect on the world.*