Created by: Carol Teverbaugh, Possum School

Grade level: 4

Primary Source Citation: Runaway Slave Advertisements, Emily – Runaway Slave and Tom – Runaway Slave, 
http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/html/pagedc4f.html?ID=4418 and 

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the posters located at the above link while answering the questions below in order. The girls will focus on Emily’s poster to answer the questions. The boys will focus on Tom’s poster. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. Who are the people named in the poster?
2. What was the purpose of the poster?
3. When was this poster made?
4. Where was the location named in the poster?
5. Why was this poster made public?

Level II: Interpretation

1. Where would these reward posters probably have been posted? Why?
2. If you were a slave catcher, where would you like to capture Tom or Emily? Explain your answer.

Level III: Analysis

1. How would you compare and contrast lives of enslaved people in Kentucky to fugitive slaves in Ohio in 1853?
2. Pretend that you are Tom/Emily. John Parker is helping you to escape from Northern Kentucky, and he has just read the reward poster to you. How might you disguise yourself so slave catchers won’t easily recognize you? Explain your answer.
100 DOLLARS REWARD!

Ranaway from the subscriber on the 27th of July, my Black Woman, named

EMILY,

Seventeen years of age, well grown, black color, has a whining voice. She took with her one dark calico and one blue and white dress, a red corded gingham bonnet; a white striped shawl and slippers. I will pay the above reward if taken near the Ohio river on the Kentucky side, or THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS, if taken in the State of Ohio, and delivered to me near Lewisburg, Mason County, Ky.

THO'S. H. WILLIAMS.

August 4, 1853.

$150 REWARD.

RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the night of Monday the 11th July, a negro man named

TOM,

about 30 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high; of dark color; heavy in the chest; several of his jaw teeth out; and upon his body are several old marks of the whip, one of them straight down the back. He took with him a quantity of clothing, and several hats.

A reward of $150 will be paid for his apprehension and security, if taken out of the State of Kentucky; $100 if taken in any county bordering on the Ohio river; $50 if taken in any of the interior counties except Fayette; or $20 if taken in the latter county.

July 12-84-tf

B. L. BOSTON.