

Free to
Educators

Never Give Up!

Ama's Journey to Freedom on the Underground Railroad



Film with Curriculum by Kesa Kivel
Grades 5 - 10

“A MUST-HAVE”

— *School Library Journal*

“HIGHLY RECOMMENDED”

— *Video Librarian Review Magazine*

“FULL OF INSPIRING EXAMPLES OF RESISTANCE”

— *Ariel Luckey, Educator/Artist*

Stream the film for FREE online at www.kesakivestudios.org

A coming-of-age historical fiction set in the 1850s, the free 28-minute educational film *Never Give Up! Ama's Journey to Freedom on the Underground Railroad* provides excellent, well-researched content on slavery in the United States as well as on everyday acts of resistance by enslaved people.

The richly textured film breathes life into history by weaving live footage of students acting out the story of an enslaved girl named Ama with compelling original illustrations, historical photographs, and a powerful, emotional music score. *Never Give Up!* makes history relevant and relatable.

www.kesakivestudios.org



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SAMPLE CURRICULUM

PRE-VIEWING SUGGESTIONS

- Be prepared to share what you might see, hear, and feel if you yourself were one of the main characters in the story.
- Watch for ways in which Ama and Ben resisted slavery on the plantation — for example, working more slowly than they were supposed to work in the cotton fields.



POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

- Ama fears that she and Ben might be caught by slave catchers even in a “safe” house because of the Fugitive Slave Act. What was this act? Where else besides Canada could Ama have gone to escape slavery?
- An illustration of the *North Star* newspaper is shown in the film. Who founded the newspaper, and what was its mission?
- What does Ama’s joy in being able to try hatmaking in Canada, no matter the results, reveal about the nature of freedom?
- Explain the meaning of Ama’s words “*Your kind acts no matter how small count as well. More than you might ever know.*”
- Many school textbooks pay little attention to the different ways in which enslaved people resisted slavery. Why is it important to include the different forms of resistance in textbooks and educational films?
- Write down your goals for standing up for yourself and helping others. If you haven’t thought about your goals before, think about them now and write them down. What people, real or fictional, inspire your thoughts about this?

Stream *Never Give Up!* Film at www.kesakivelstudios.org

Free *Road to Racial Justice* “Board” Game: www.kesakivelstudios.org

