

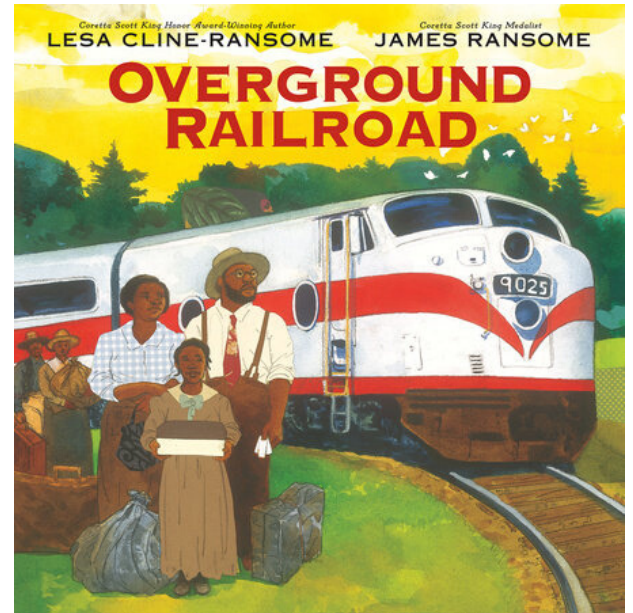


## FAMILY ACTIVITY SHEET

Enjoy a recorded reading of *Overground Railroad* by author Lesa Cline-Ransome. This story gives us a child's experience of the Great Migration.

### Overground Railroad by Lesa Cline-Ransome

As she climbs aboard the New York bound Silver Meteor train, Ruth Ellen embarks on a journey toward a new life up North-- one she can't begin to imagine. As they travel, Ruth Ellen reads from the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, reflecting on how her journey mirrors her own-- until finally the train arrives at its last stop, New York's Penn Station. The family enjoys a night filled with bright lights, glimmering stars, and new possibilities.



[Click HERE to purchase Overground Railroad by author Lesa Cline-Ransome](#)

### Discussion Questions: (Use following the reading.)

1. What's the difference between the Underground Railroad and the Overground Railroad?
2. Why did Ruth Ellen's family leave their southern town?
3. What type of images did Ruth Ellen see outside the train window while they traveled North?
4. The train cars were divided so that black passengers sat together and white passengers sat together while traveling in southern cities. What was the first city where both races were free to sit anywhere on the train?
5. What meal did Ruth Ellen's grandma pack for them for their train trip?
6. How was Frederick Douglass's trip to freedom different from Ruth Ellen's trip?
7. What did her family hope to see in their new city home?

Thousands of southern blacks traveled to northern cities like Baltimore during the Great Migration. They sought jobs at companies such as Glenn L. Martin Aircraft or Bethlehem Steel to have better lives for their families. These steel boot shoe covers from the Lewis Museum's permanent collection, belonged to an African American worker that worked at Bethlehem Steel.



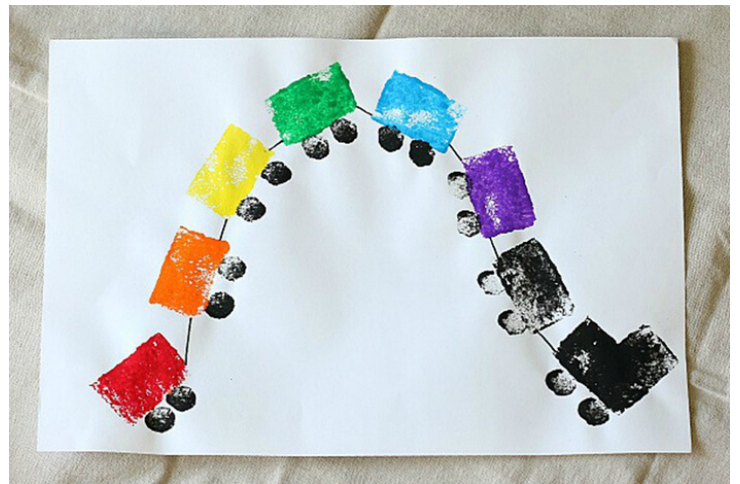
## Family Activities:

### Create a Sponge Paint Train

Materials:

- Paint
- Kitchen sponges
- Paper

Dip kitchen sponges in paint to create a colorful train traveling on train tracks. Use markers and other materials (cork, spool, etc) to embellish the train print.



### Souvenirs Suitcase

Materials:

- Shoe box/Cereal box
- Paper
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Magazines
- Ribbon



Imagine that your family is planning a trip or a move to a new city or town. What do you hope to see? Decorate your suitcase with souvenirs from your trip.

## Oral History Interview: My Move

Brainstorm a list of family members or other people that you know have moved. Interview one family member or friend to discover their reasons for moving. You can include a photo of the person that you interviewed.

Interviews can also be recorded on your phone.

**Photo**

**Name:**

**Previous City/Town:**

**Move Date:**

**Current City/Town:**

### Interview Questions

- Tell me a time when you have moved.
- What were your reasons for moving?
- Describe your old neighborhood or city/town.
- Did you travel by car, train, plane or another form of transportation?
- Did anyone travel with you?