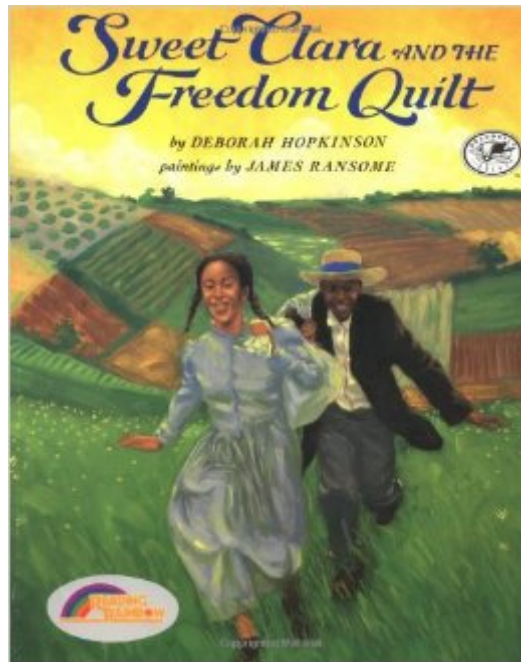


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# Sweet Clara And The Freedom Quilt (Reading Rainbow Books)



## Synopsis

2013 marks the 20th anniversary of *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt!* As a seamstress in the Big House, Clara dreams of a reunion with her Momma, who lives on another plantation--and even of running away to freedom. Then she overhears two slaves talking about the Underground Railroad. In a flash of inspiration, Clara sees how she can use the cloth in her scrap bag to make a map of the land--a freedom quilt--that no master will ever suspect.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD680L (What's this?)

Series: Reading Rainbow Books

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Alfred A. Kopf; 1 edition (January 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679874720

ISBN-13: 978-0679874720

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.2 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (53 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #66,124 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) #182 in [Books > Children's](#)

[Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#) #535 in [Books >](#)

[Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

I discovered *SWEET CLARA AND THE FREEDOM QUILT* when I was doing a little research into the Underground Railroad. It has been a long-standing theory that patchwork quilts were used to help the enslaved people to escape by the encoded messages in the quilt patterns. This story is another take-off on that traditional idea. Clara, a slave girl under the age of twelve, was sent away from her mother to another plantation to work in the fields and pick cotton. She makes friends with Young Jack who sees that she's unhappy and not eating and advises her that she must eat to have the strength to be a field worker. Clara now shares a cabin with an older woman, who is kind to her and though unrelated, is called Aunt Rachel. Aunt Rachel also sees that Clara may not be strong

enough to be a field laborer, and over a period of time teaches Clara the art of sewing. Once she can learn to sew, she can work with Rachel at the Big House. Clara proves to be an apt pupil and eventually becomes a seamstress and goes to work for the mistress of the plantation. The sewing room is next to the kitchen so that Clara meets a lot of people who move around the countryside. She also hears stories about the Underground Railroad, which is a group of people who help slaves to escape. As Clara listens to the people talking, she begins to question them about the surrounding land and decides to make a map out of sewing scraps. Eventually the quilt map is completed and Clara and Jack are ready to leave the plantation and go north to find the Ohio River, and head for Canada. Since Clara had memorized the quilt map, she left it behind so that others could use it too, and escape to the North. The illustrations by James Ransome are excellent.

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