

From Darkness to Light Photographs

Lesson Plan: Using the Images

From The Programming Guide for *Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad*
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Photographer Jeanine Michna-Bales has created this series of photographs to allude to sites along the Underground Railroad and to convey to viewers what it might have felt like or looked like to be traveling in the cover of darkness, hiding, trying to escape an enslaved life. Study several of the works in the exhibition and discuss them using the questions below.

What do you see in this photograph?

What is missing? Why?

What is the mood expressed through the imagery and through the contrast (dark and light tones) in the work?

Although these images are created in the current era (not at the time before the Emancipation Proclamation) do they seem of the past or present? What do you see that makes you think this?

What else do you think about when viewing this photographs? Why?

If you viewed these images without the quotations on the wall, the gallery text and labels, and title of the exhibition, would you still interpret them in the same way? Why or why not?