Abel Catlin to Joseph Burrows, September 2, 1823

LETTER ANALYSIS

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

William Grimes, born into slavery in Virginia in 1784, spent the first 30 years of his life enslaved. He escaped by stowing away on a ship to New York and lived in New Haven and Litchfield as a fugitive of slavery. In Litchfield, Grimes worked as a barber, eventually buying property and a house for his family. In 1823, while in New Haven, Grimes was discovered and arrested for running away from his owner.

**In this letter, a friend of Grimes’s, Abel Catlin, writes to Joseph Burrows, an agent of Grimes’s owner, T.H. Welman, concerning William Grimes’s desire to purchase his freedom.** In a response, B.B. (possibly Joseph Burrow’s brother Benjamin) writes back to Abel Catlin with the agreed price for Grimes’s freedom.

**READ THE LETTER AND USE THE “HAPPY” QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR INFORMATION SEEKING. WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS TO THE GUIDING QUESTIONS IN THE BOXES BELOW.**

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| **HISTORICAL CONTEXT** | **AUDIENCE** | **PURPOSE** | **POINT OF VIEW** | **WHY** |
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B.B. to Abel Catlin, September 11, 1823

LETTER ANALYSIS

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

William Grimes, born into slavery in Virginia in 1784, spent the first 30 years of his life enslaved. He escaped by stowing away on a ship to New York and lived in New Haven and Litchfield as a fugitive of slavery. In Litchfield, Grimes worked as a barber, eventually buying property and a house for his family. In 1825, while in New Haven, Grimes was discovered and arrested for running away from his owner.

In an earlier letter, a friend of Grimes’s, Abel Catlin, writes to Joseph Burrows, an agent of Grimes’s owner, T.H. Welman, concerning William Grimes’s desire to purchase his freedom. **In this letter, B.B. (possibly Benjamin Burrows, Joseph Burrow’s brother) writes back to Abel Catlin with the agreed price for Grimes’s freedom.**

**READ THE LETTER AND USE THE “HAPPY” QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR INFORMATION SEEKING. WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS TO THE GUIDING QUESTIONS IN THE BOXES BELOW.**

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