



# **BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021**

Year 2

Fabulous Flamingos & Precious Peacocks

# Henry 'Box' Brown

When the children were in year 1 they listened to the life and story of Henry 'Box' Brown.

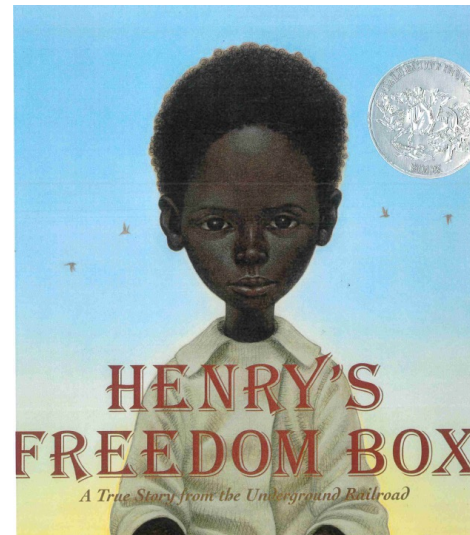
In year 2, the children were provided with an opportunity to build on their prior learning and dig deeper into the life and struggles of Henry's life as a slave.

Each lesson was linked to a different Reading Dog



# Story & Comprehension

The children recapped the story of Henry 'Box' Brown. They discussed what they already knew before listening to the story.







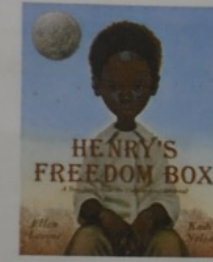
Henry Brown was a slave, who was born in 1815 and died on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1897. He was born in a city called Virginia, which is in America.

Where was Henry Brown born? He was born in Virginia.  
When did Henry Brown die? He died on the 15th June 1897.



Henry, his mother, and his brothers and sisters worked in their master's house. Henry met a woman called Nancy, who later became his wife. They had three children together.

What was the name of Henry's wife? Henry's wife was Nancy.  
How many children did Henry and his wife have altogether? They had 3 children.



How do you think Henry felt when he was in the box? Why do you think that?

Henry felt upset because he couldn't breathe and he was not happy being in a box.

How do you think Henry felt when the box opened and he was free?

Henry felt excited because he was free and his back was hurting.

**While Henry was at the factory, the master sold Nancy and the children. Henry knew that he would never see his family again.**

How do you think Henry felt when his family were sold? Why do you think that?

I think Henry felt heart broken when his family was sold because he would never see them again.

**Henry knew that it was time to seek his freedom (escape). As he was lifting crates (boxes) in the factory, he had an idea. Henry asked his friend James and a man called Doctor Smith to help him.**

What did Henry do in the factory? Henry lifted crates in the factory.  
Who helped Henry escape? Doctor Smith and James.

**While Henry was at the factory, the master sold Nancy and the children. Henry knew that he would never see his family again.**

How do you think Henry felt when his family were sold? Why do you think that?

I think he felt <sup>upset</sup> unhappy because his family was sold.

**Henry knew that it was time to seek his freedom (escape). As he was lifting crates (boxes) in the factory, he had an idea. Henry asked his friend James and a man called Doctor Smith to help him.**

What did Henry do in the factory? He tried to escape.  
Who helped Henry escape? His friend James and Doctor Smith to help him.

# Sequencing the story

To further embed the children's knowledge and understanding of the story, they sequenced the story. Some children matched sentences to the parts of the story and some children wrote sentences on their own.





I think Henry felt unhappy when he was a

1. Slave because he had to obey what the master says.

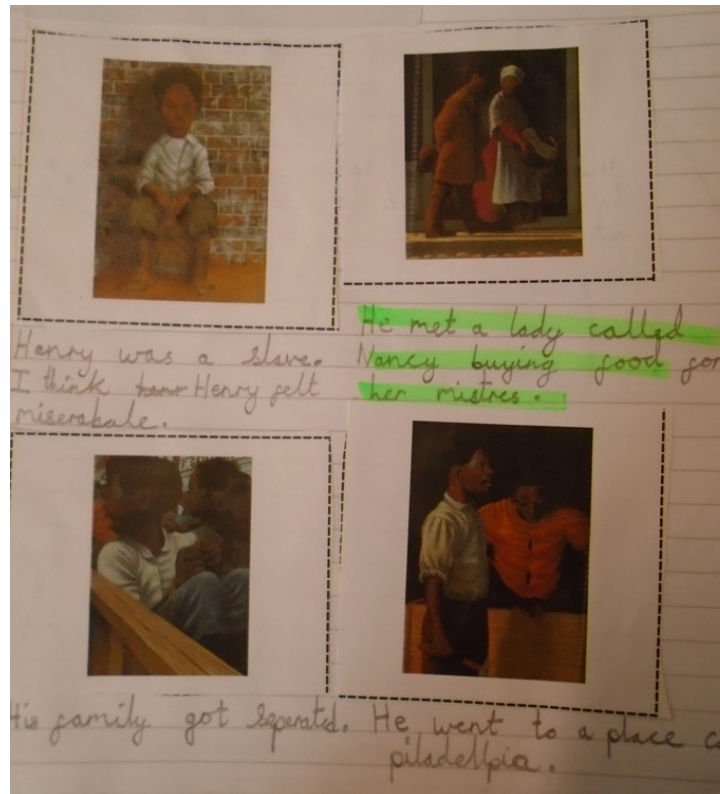
2. I think Henry felt happy when he met nancy.

3. I think Henry felt horrid when nancy and the children were sold.

4. I think Henry was suffocated when he was in the box.

5. I think Henry felt dizzy when he got tipped over.

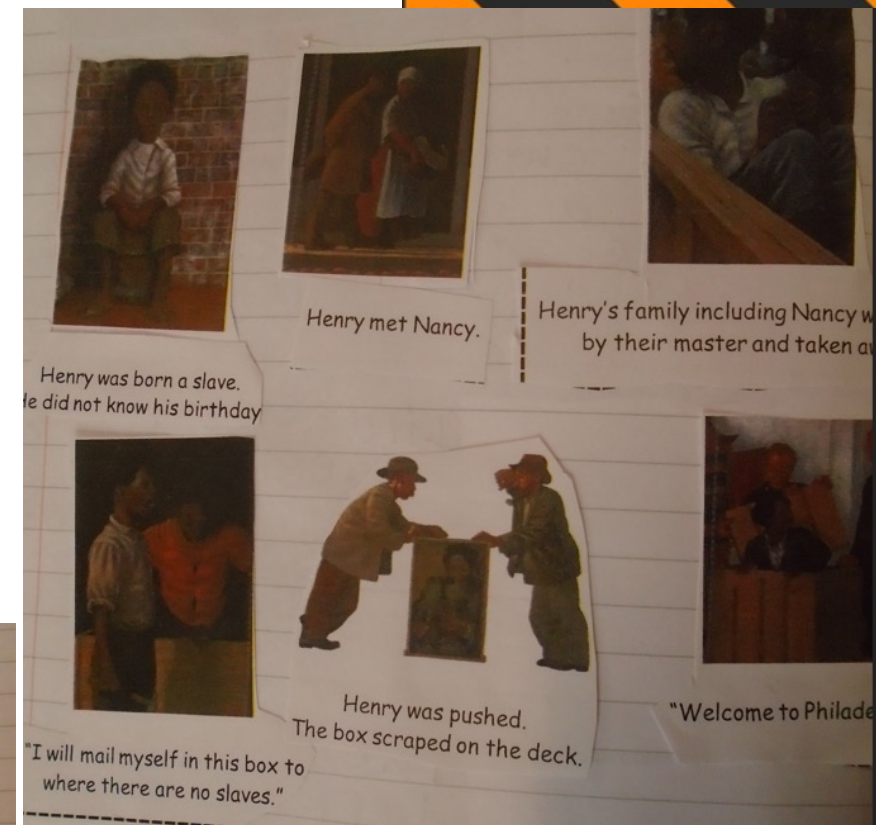
6. I think Henry felt cheerful when he was free.



Henry was a slave. I think Henry felt miserable.

He met a lady called Nancy buying food for her mistress.

His family got separated. He went to a place called Philadelphia.



Henry was born a slave. He did not know his birthday.

Henry met Nancy.

Henry's family including Nancy was taken away by their master and taken away.

Henry was pushed. The box scraped on the deck.

"Welcome to Philadelphia."

"I will mail myself in this box to where there are no slaves."

# Zone of Relevancy



This activity gave the children opportunity to explore vocabulary related to freedom.

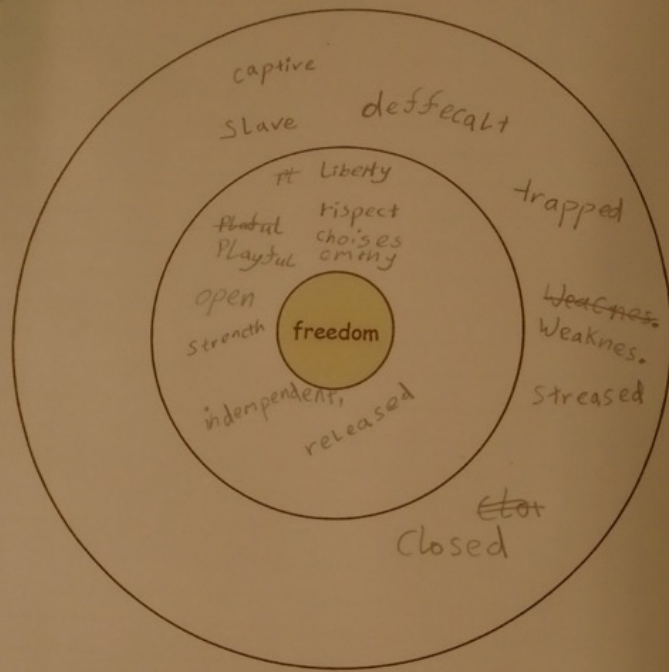
They began the lesson listening to the song *'I wish I knew how it would feel to be free'* by *Nina Simone*.

This gave them time to meditate on the lyrics and question:

What does  
**FREEDOM**  
mean to you?







Write these words where you think they go on our vocabulary target.

slave ✓	trapped ✓	playful ✓	stressed ✓
liberty ✓	choices ✓	open ✓	closed ✓
respect ✓	empathy ✓	captive ✓	independent ✓
difficult ✓	weakness ✓	strength ✓	released ✓

I think that Henry is feeling miserable because he is lonely. I think that Henry is feeling heart broken because he has to listen to his master and he always gets hit. ✓



Write these words where you think they go on our vocabulary target.

I feel free ~~when~~ When I watch tv.  
 I feel free when I play games.  
 I feel free when I go to the park.  
 I ~~ff~~ feel free when I go and talk to my friend.  
 I feel free when I ~~am~~ feel calm.



# Role Play

To inference the feelings and emotions Henry Brown may have gone through, the children took it in turns to get into a box themselves!

They discussed how they felt before entering the box, while they were in the box and what it felt like coming out of the box and feeling “freedom” again!









When I was in the box I felt  
cramped and suffocated. or  
After I came out of the box  
I felt liberated.

Name Jivansh

When I was in the box I felt  
terrified because in the box it was  
quite dark.

Name Aashi B

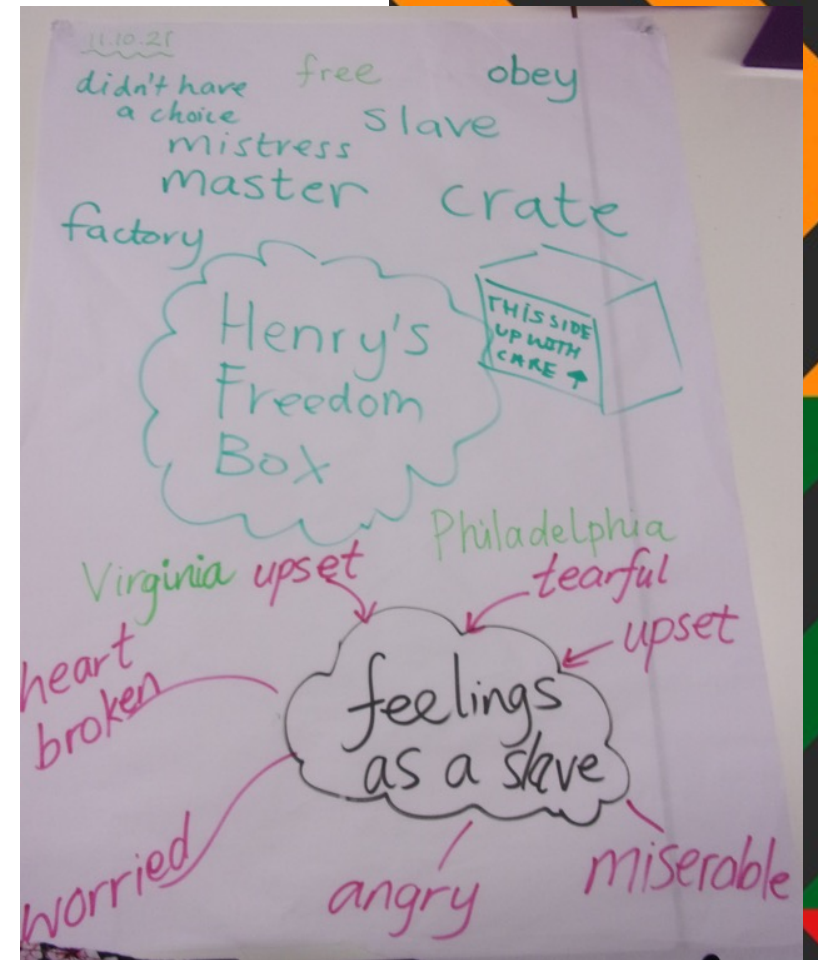
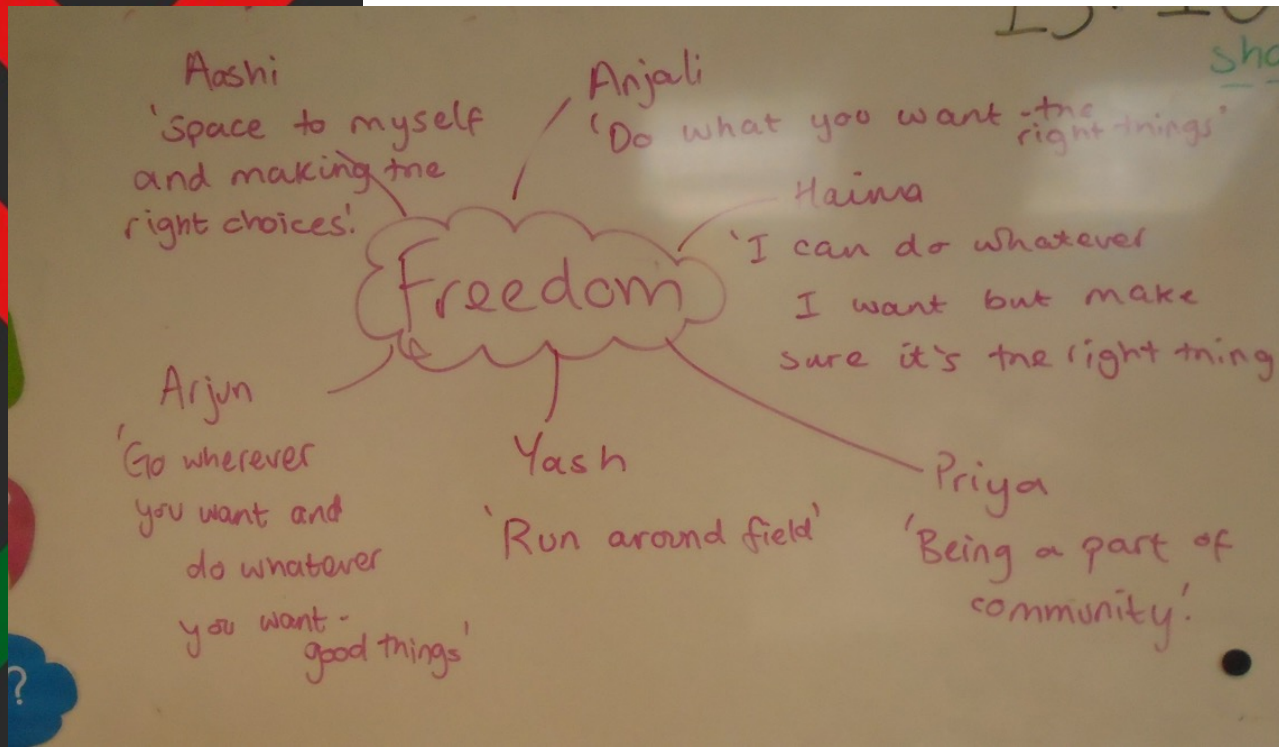
I will feel dumbfounded when  
I will go in the box because it  
will be tricky to stay in there  
for long because I will not be  
able to breathe.

Name Vushan

I felt scared not in the box because  
I didn't know what was going to  
happen. I felt worried because the box  
was hurting me. I felt happy because  
I had freedom.

Name Arjun





<u>Before the box</u>	<u>in the box</u>	<u>After the box</u>
ecstatic	scared	relieved
excited	squashed	tired
nervous	tired	relaxed
joyful	uncomfortable	liberated
confused	sweaty	joyful
anxious	hard to breathe	jolly
		really pleased



# Creating a freedom box

The children used their gross motor skills to create their own 'freedom' box. They wrote positive words related to freedom and decorated the box with pictures of what freedom means to them such as a field, a bird and the sky!

