



Oral Tradition



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What is Oral Tradition?



- ❧ Oral traditions are messages that are transmitted orally from one generation to another.
- ❧ The messages may be passed down through speech or song and may take the form of folktales and fables, epic histories and narrations, proverbs or sayings, and songs.
- ❧ Oral Traditions make it possible for a society to pass knowledge across generations without heavy dependence on writing
- ❧ They are also used to teach children and adults about important aspects of their culture as well as help people make sense of the world.

Story Time

Fatou was a young woman who was “**steal away**” from her family to be a slave, she did not have the chance to experience a childhood. Fatou’s family were questioning what happened to her they figured either she was killed or kidnapped. Approximately, 600 million other children were kept as slave they were ready to **wade** the Atlantic Ocean fearing to be detected by dogs. After Fatou and others crossed the “**Jordan River**” then they had to migrate to the heavens. These children suffered so much you can't imagine the struggle how life was for them. **Harriet Tubman** was considered a moses who helped slaves like Fatou escape to the north by the **Underground Railroad**.

Heaven—life after death meant freedom in the North

Canaan, the Promised Land, Home, Glory, to Jesus—words that signified freedom or a place where one could be free • Drinking Gourd—the Big Dipper, a group of stars that show which way is North

Chariot or Train—the Underground Railroad, or a means to escape to freedom

- **Steal away**—sneak away secretly
- **Wade**—take the river to avoid detection by dogs
- **Moses**—freedom fighter, Underground Railroad conductor, or Harriet Tubman specifically
- **Jordan (river)**—the Ohio River or another significant body of water that needed to be crossed to get to freedom

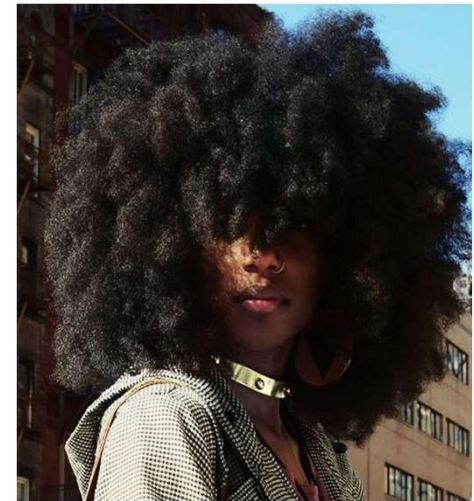


Background Information

Spirituals are folk songs, created by anonymous, uncelebrated poets who were enslaved on the plantations of the American south. Through their persistence and popularity, they have formed an important and inspiring repertoire of song. However, one of the challenges of spirituals is that they were born out of oral tradition. Inconsistencies—in text, in melody—occur frequently. Repetition of parts, or even entire sections of text, also arises with regularity within differently titled pieces of music. There is good reason for this, of course: the music was not written down, at least not in a comprehensive and systematic way, until 1867.²⁶ It was shared from generation to generation, and from plantation to plantation, by word-of-mouth, which allowed for great variance in what was known for each song. “Time and ‘group editing,’ according to John W. Work, are “the two greatest known purifiers of folk song. For instance, one person may create a song in which there are some unnatural intervals or some words that do not quite fit the meter. If the group is favorably impressed with the song as a whole, gradually, and without conscious effort, it replaces these unnatural intervals and misfit words with more suitable ones.”²⁷ The advantage to this oral tradition (in terms of using music to interact secretly) was that there were so many variations to the tunes and text that it was difficult for adversaries to keep track of the song, and ultimately, the meanings of those songs

HAIRSTYLES IN AFRICAN CULTURE

A hairstyle should not define anyone race or culture. A hairstyle is a style which anyone has the ability to do as they please. Personally, I enjoy these different hairstyles because it makes you feel pretty and it's good to switch up. If you feel comfortable in your own skin that's what REALLY matters!



References

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200197495/>

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