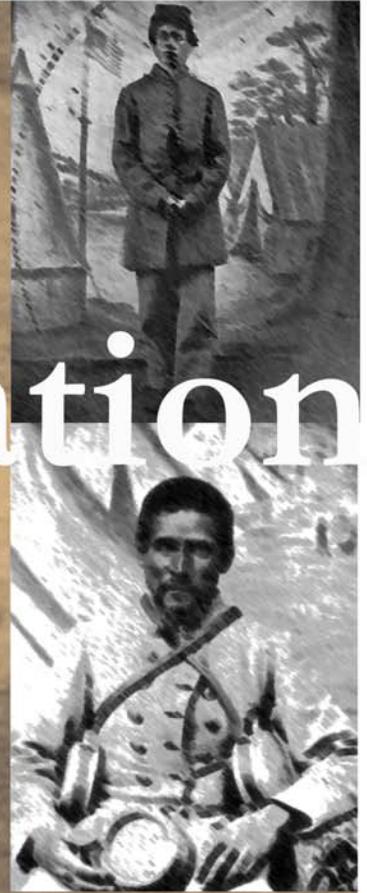


# The Separation



A Story the by King Elementary School 5th Grade Classes

Music and Lyrics by Scott Schwartz and Marten Stromberg

(Words and story developed by Matt Mockbee's, Sally Thompson's and Juliana Arazi's 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, King Elementary School, Urbana, Illinois, March 2012. Music, orchestration, and historical story line developed by Marten Stromberg and Scott Schwartz, University of Illinois, March 2012.)

The song's story is based on fictional account of two brothers, Joseph who is a slave with a young family, and the other, Christopher, a slave who has sought his freedom through the aid of the Underground Railroad. The brothers' parents, Augustus and Caroline Bowman, were brought to America as child slaves in the 1820s and were eventually acquired by Pamela Bowman who owned a small plantation in Louisville, Kentucky. Augustus and Caroline eventually fell in love, married and raised twelve children as servants of Miss Bowman's household.<sup>1</sup> Christopher was the oldest, followed by Issac who died at age 14, Elizabeth, Jonah and Harriet who were fraternal twins, Cain and Cyrus who were identical twins, George-Anne who died at age 8, Jacob, David, and Joseph who was the youngest of the family. While Miss Bowman tried to provide for the basic needs and well-being of her slaves, some sought freedom from their bondage and escaped to the North Country while others found some level of security in the care they received from their master.

Christopher left his family in 1850 in response to the country's new fugitive slave act, and traveled down the Ohio River to Cairo, Illinois and then up the Mississippi to Dr. Richard Eells home in Quincy, one stop on the Underground Railroad, before heading west toward Kansas City and new-found freedom. He eventually settles down in Osawatomie, Kansas and marries another runaway slave, Rachel, and begins making a family free from the turmoil of bondage. Unlike his oldest brother, Joseph finds comfort in his life as a slave because he always has food, clothes, and a roof over his head. As the county debates the inflammatory issues of states rights, slavery, and the 1860 presidential election, Joseph marries another young slave, Ruth, and begins building his family as a member of Miss Bowman's household.

With the fall of Fort Sumter to Beauregard's southern army on April 12, 1861, Christopher joins Colonel James William's First Kansas Colored Infantry Regiment in August 1862 to fight for the Northern Army and Joseph joins Colonel John Hunt Morgan's 2<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky Cavalry Regiment in April 1862 to fight for the Confederate Army. The two brothers wrote often to one another to express their concern for the other, and shared a mutual dread that they may one day be forced to fight until one or both were killed in battle. While Christopher's regiment took him to battles at Island Mound, Reeder Farm, Cabin Creek, Honey Springs and Poison Springs, he never encountered Morgan's Raiders; and while Joseph's battle field encounters at Shiloh, Hartsville, Gettysburg, and Greeneville where he saw Morgan finally killed by the Northern Army, he never had to face his brother in battle.

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<sup>1</sup> It was a common practice for slaves to take their master's last name as their own as well as take Christian names for their given first names.

# The Separation

King Elementary School 5th Grades  
Spring 2012

$\text{♩} = 60$  Dmin (Cappo at 7th fret and play as written.)\*

Voice

(verse 1) Chris-to-pher Bow-man he's a free-man fled his  
way up the Miss-iss-ipp-i; Jo-seph Bow-man he's a slave hand, but his  
fam-i-ly's got se-cur-i-ty. [instrumental]

(verse 2) Chris-to-pher Bow-man sought John Brown's shel-ter made his  
way to Kan-sas Ci-ty Jo-seph Bow-man stayed in the South Land he  
lives for his fam-i-ly. - - - One's a slave to the south coun-try  
Yes he serves but is nev-er free But his child-ren have a place-to be, he  
(Chorus)

\*May include a two bar introduction consisting of 2 half notes and three quarter note strums on a Dmin chord.

25 Dmin  
fights for the Con-fed' - ra - cy. [instrumental] His

27  
bro-ther was a slave but now is free, True and loy - al to the north coun - try, His

29 C Dmin  
hair is grey but his grand - kids free, He - fights for the Un - ion Ar - my.

31 Coda Dmin C  
Four years of fight - ing and

34 Dmin C Dmin  
ma - ny more in chains Oh these shack - les and these ri - fles won't you go a-way -

37 C Dmin C rit.  
bro - ther fight - ing bro - ther in a land made free to be, war cruel war won't you

40 Dmin C Dmin  
please go a way.

3. Now Joseph rides with Morgan's Raiders,  
The only negro riding with that band;  
Private Christopher with the Kansas Infantry,  
They're trying to hunt down Morgan's men.

[instrument interlude]

4. No war ain't easy, not for no man,  
Chris lost his home, in the flames;  
Joe knows well now, he don't rest easy,  
For General Sherman, may one day do the same.

[chorus]

5. Last time Joseph wrote to Christopher,  
Wished they never meet in a fight;  
He warned his brother, that Morgan's raiders,  
Might be coming, some summer night.

[instrument interlude]

6. May be Davis, may be Lincoln,  
Lee or Grant may win this war;  
But one things certain, sure a sunrise,  
We American brothers want to fight no more.

[chorus]

### **Coda**

Four years of fighting and many more in chains  
Oh these shackles and these rifles won't you go away  
Brother fighting brother in a land made to be free  
War, crazy war won't you please go away.