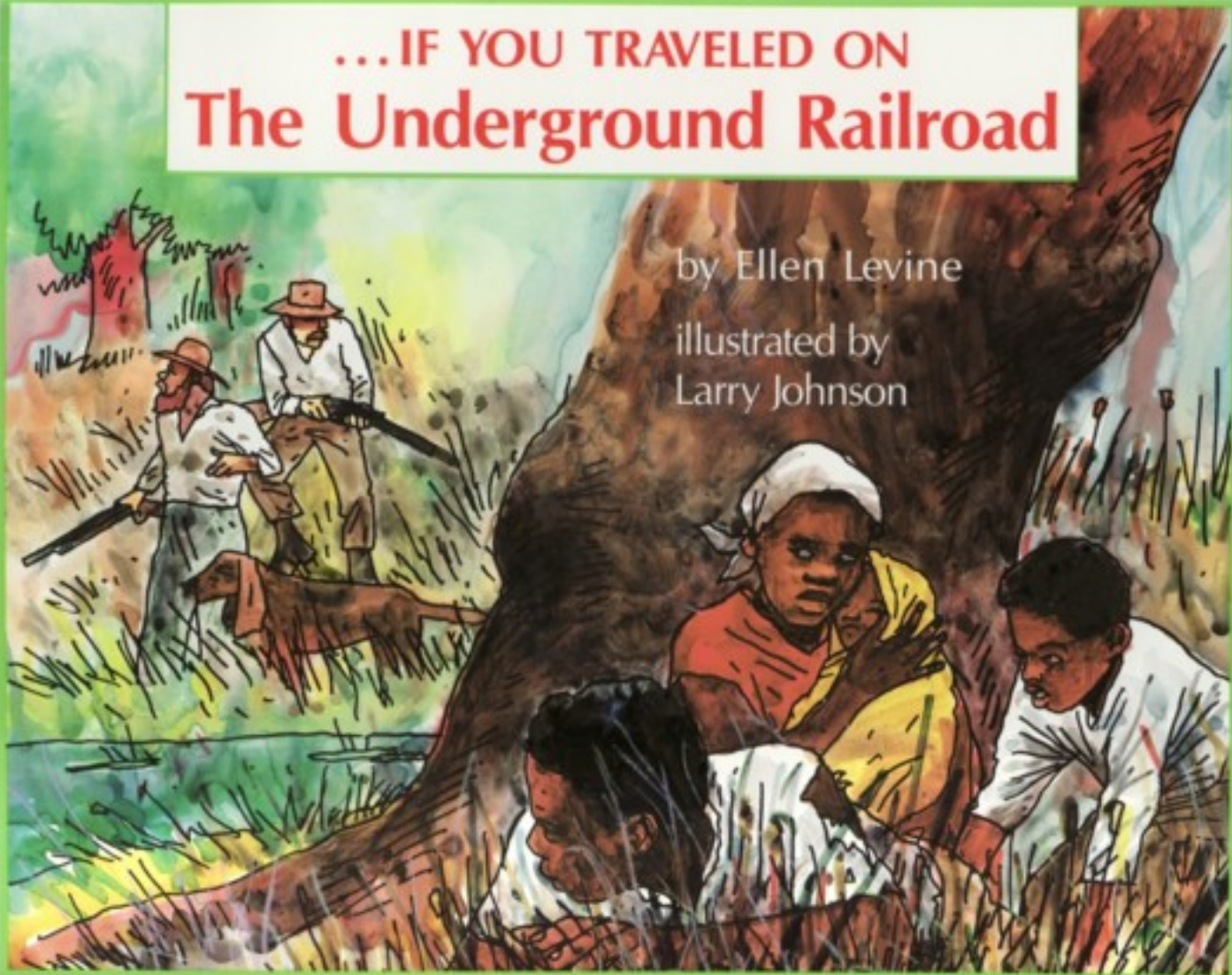
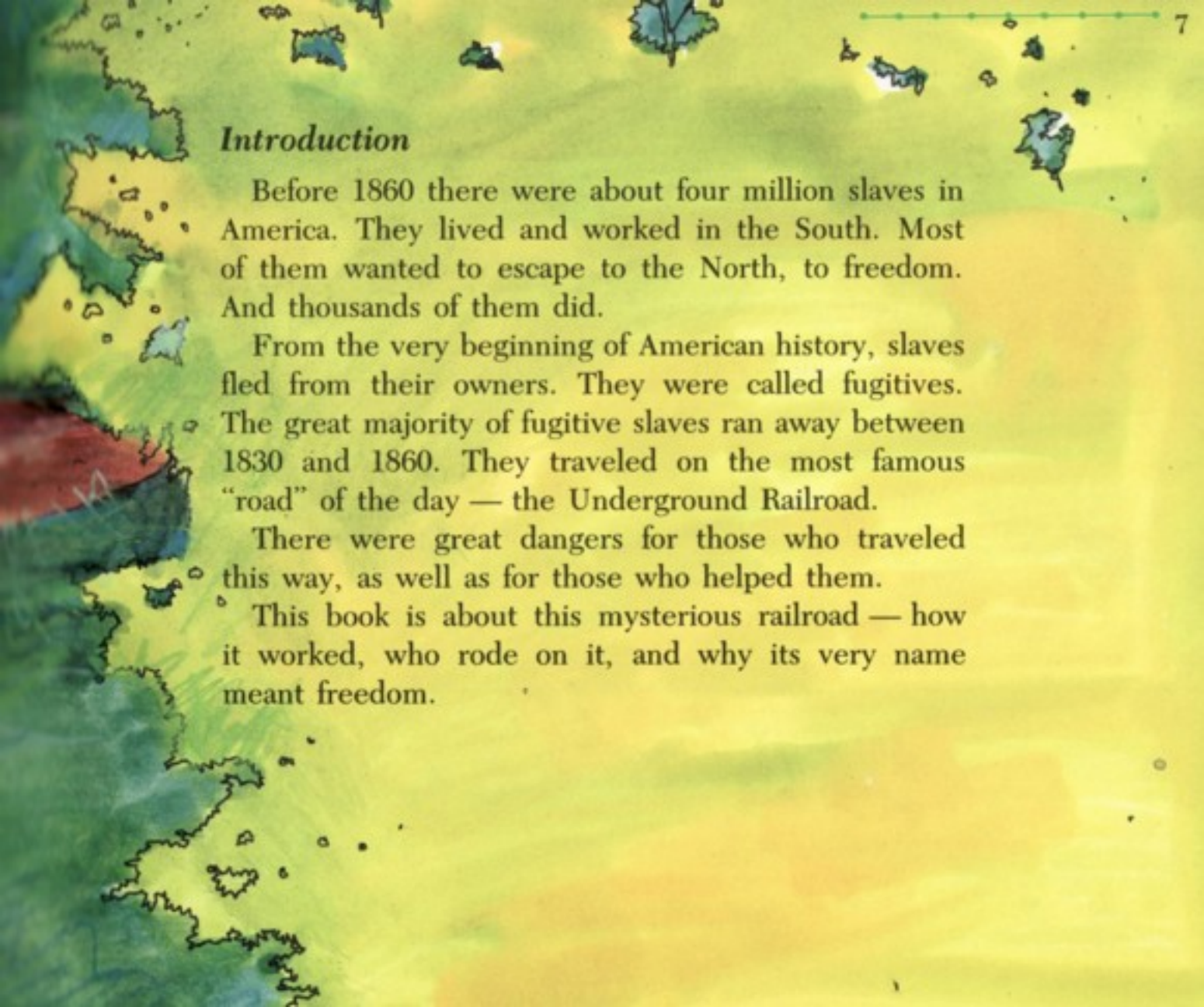


...IF YOU TRAVELED ON The Underground Railroad

by Ellen Levine

illustrated by
Larry Johnson





Introduction

Before 1860 there were about four million slaves in America. They lived and worked in the South. Most of them wanted to escape to the North, to freedom. And thousands of them did.

From the very beginning of American history, slaves fled from their owners. They were called fugitives. The great majority of fugitive slaves ran away between 1830 and 1860. They traveled on the most famous "road" of the day — the Underground Railroad.

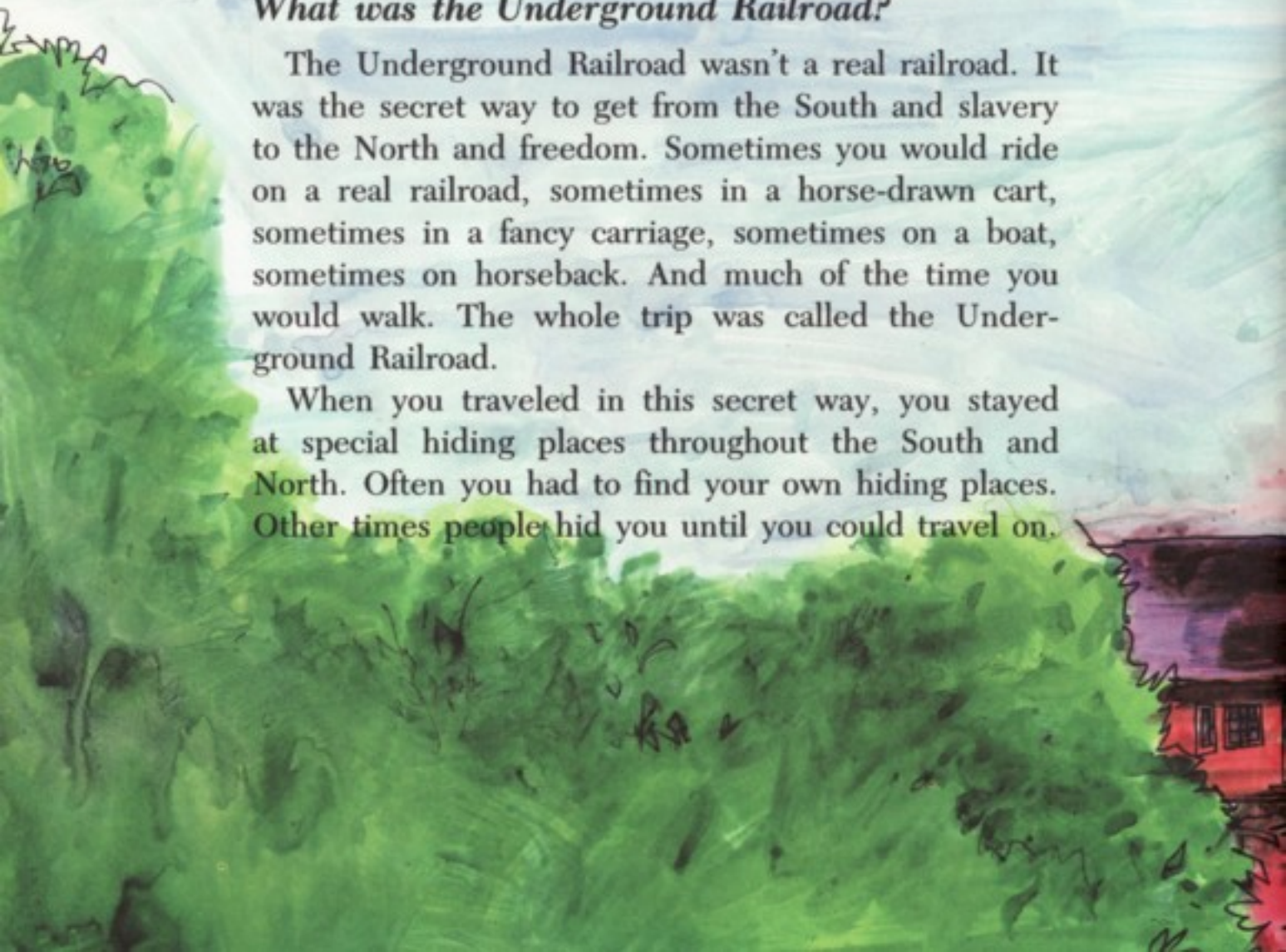
There were great dangers for those who traveled this way, as well as for those who helped them.

This book is about this mysterious railroad — how it worked, who rode on it, and why its very name meant freedom.

What was the Underground Railroad?

The Underground Railroad wasn't a real railroad. It was the secret way to get from the South and slavery to the North and freedom. Sometimes you would ride on a real railroad, sometimes in a horse-drawn cart, sometimes in a fancy carriage, sometimes on a boat, sometimes on horseback. And much of the time you would walk. The whole trip was called the Underground Railroad.

When you traveled in this secret way, you stayed at special hiding places throughout the South and North. Often you had to find your own hiding places. Other times people hid you until you could travel on.



The houses the slaves hid in along the way were called “stations.” People who helped the fugitives were called “railroad workers.” Some were “conductors” — they would lead you to the next station. Others were “station masters” — they would feed you and give you a place to sleep until you left for the next station.



A different time...a different place...
What if you were there?

- If you traveled on the Underground Railroad
- Where was the safest place to go?
 - Would you use a disguise when you ran?
 - What would you do when you were free?

This book tells you what it was like to be a
slave trying to escape to freedom on the
Underground Railroad.

Look for other books in this unique series
that tell how children lived long ago.

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