



# *Follow* **THE DRINKING GOURD**





Long ago,  
before the Civil War,  
there was an old sailor called Peg Leg Joe  
who did what he could to help free the slaves.



Joe had a plan.  
He'd use hammer and nail and saw





and work for the master, the man  
who owned slaves  
on the cotton plantation.



*“For the old man  
is a-waiting for to  
carry you to freedom  
If you follow the  
drinking gourd.”*

**I**t sounded like a simple folk song sung by slaves, but it was really a map to freedom—for hidden in the lyrics were directions to the escape route known as the Underground Railroad. In glowing paintings that evoke the American folk tradition and a simple text inspired by slave narratives, Jeanette Winter tells the story of one brave family who followed the drinking gourd—the Big Dipper—north to liberation.

“An extraordinary and inspiring tribute to a unique part of African-American history.” —*Boston Globe*

“A fine rendering of history in picture-book format.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

“The artist’s hauntingly muted pictures propel the story forward and make it memorable.” —Selma Lanes, *Washington Post Book World*

DRAGONFLY BOOKS™

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