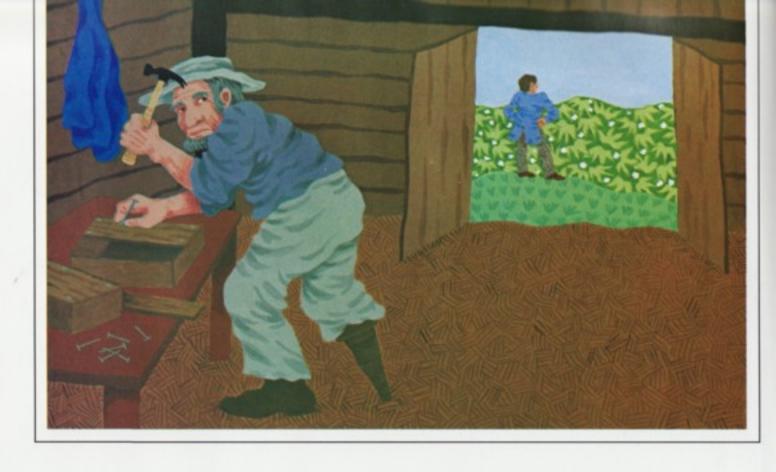
## THE DRINKING GOURD

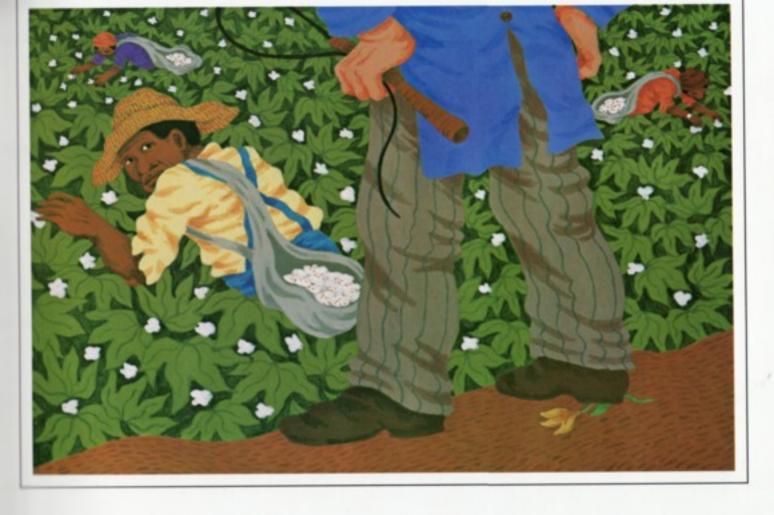




Long ago,
before the Civil War,
there was an old sailor called Peg Leg Joe
who did what he could to help free the slaves.



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."

It 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