

Read. Think. Explain.

In this activity, you'll answer a series of questions about "Freedom or Death" that will help you think more deeply about the struggle for equality during the Civil War. You'll also think about a remarkable and brave young man, Robert Smalls, who was born into slavery but risked his life to win freedom for his family and 12 other slaves.

Directions: Answer the questions below, using information and details from the article to back up your ideas. Use a separate piece of paper if you need more room.

1. What are some examples of how cruel slavery was?

2. What can you conclude about Robert Smalls from his daring takeover of the *Planter*?

3. What motivated Robert Smalls to plan his escape?

4. If you were Robert Smalls, do you think you would have tried to escape? Why or why not?

5. What were some of Robert Smalls's achievements after he escaped from slavery?
If he were alive today, what do you think his life would be like?
