

Title of Lesson: Who was Oney Judge?  
Christine Tigue (Georgia)

Georgia Standards of Excellence

SS4CG1a. Describe the meaning of: a. Natural rights as found in the Declaration of Independence (the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness)

SS4H2a. Identify the major leaders of the Constitutional Convention (James Madison, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin).

SS4H6a. Describe the purpose of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

ELAGSE4W3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Objective: Students develop an understanding of a slave's life and write a narrative describing a day in Oney Judge's life.

#### Introduction activity

After reading and discussing the advertisement of Oney Judge, students will draw what they think she might look like.

May 23 No. 43, South Water Street. d 101

---

**Advertisement.**

**A**BSCONDED from the household of the President of the United States, **ONEY JUDGE**, a light mulatto girl, much freckled, with very black eyes and bushy black hair, she is of middle stature, slender, and delicately formed, about 20 years of age.

She has many changes of good clothes, of all sorts, but they are not sufficiently recollected to be described—As there was no suspicion of her going off, nor no provocation to do so, it is not easy to conjecture whether she has gone, or fully, what her design is;—but as she may attempt to escape by water, all masters of vessels are cautioned against admitting her into them, although it is probable she will attempt to pass for a free woman, and has, it is said, wherewithal to pay her passage.

Ten dollars will be paid to any person who will bring her home, if taken in the city, or on board any vessel in the harbour;—and a reasonable additional sum if apprehended at, and brought from a greater distance, and in proportion to the distance.

FREDERICK KITT, Steward.

May 23 d 101

ABSONDED from the household of the President of the United States, on Saturday afternoon, ONEY JUDGE, a light Mulatto girl, much freckled, with very black eyes, and bushy black hair.—She is of middle stature, but slender and delicately made, about 20 years of age. She has many changes of very good clothes of all sorts, but they are not sufficiently recollected to describe.

As there was no suspicion of her going off, and it happened without the least provocation, it is not easy to conjecture whither she is gone—or fully, what her design is, but she may attempt to escape by water, all masters of vessels and others are cautioned against receiving her on board, altho' she only, and probably will endeavour to pass for a free woman, and it is said has, wherewithal to pay her passage.

Ten dollars will be paid to any person, [white or black] who will bring her home; if taken in the city, or on board any vessel in the harbour; and a further reasonable sum if apprehended and brought home, from a greater distance, and in proportion to the distance.

FRED KITT, Steward.

May 23

### Literature Extension

- Let students know this is the only description of Oney Judge, so the illustrations are the author/illustrator's version of what she thinks Oney looked like. There are no pictures of her. The only description we have of her is the runaway slave advertisement.
- Introduce *The Escape of Oney Judge: Martha Washington's Slave Finds Freedom*, by Emily Arnold McCully.
- Read the book, stopping to point out things such as: "How important was Oney to the Washingtons?", "How important was Oney's freedom to her?," and other questions.
- Post reading: ask questions such as: "What rights did Oney have?," and "How do the illustrations help tell the story?"

### Writing Activity

\*In a whole group setting, have students brainstorm character traits about Oney Judge, recalling the book they just read. Create a cloud of all of the traits around one of the student's pictures.



Examples: determined, smart, strong-willed

Using these character traits, students will write one diary entry pretending to be Oney Judge describing how she felt and reacted to one important event in her life. Encourage students to share their narrative of Oney.