

## Underground Railroad Song Lyrics

### Follow the Drinking Gourd

Story: The lyrics were instructions on how to get to safety. They were taught by a man known as Peg Leg Joe. The young slaves would use the song to know when it is safe to run, and where it is safe to go.

#### Lyrics:

When the Sun comes back  
And the first quail calls  
Follow the Drinking Gourd,  
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom  
If you follow the Drinking Gourd

The riverbank makes a very good road.  
The dead trees will show you the way.  
Left foot, peg foot, travelling on,  
Follow the Drinking Gourd.

The river ends between two hills  
Follow the Drinking Gourd.  
There's another river on the other side  
Follow the Drinking Gourd.

When the great big river meets the little river  
Follow the Drinking Gourd.  
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry to freedom  
If you follow the Drinking Gourd.

### Swing Low Sweet Chariot

Story: This is one of the songs that Harriet Tubman used to warn slaves that it is either safe to come out, or very dangerous and they should stay hidden. This was also one of her favorite songs. It symbolized carrying slaves to safety.

#### Lyrics:

*Chorus:*  
*Swing low, sweet chariot,*  
*Comin' for to carry me home!*

I looked over Jordan and what did I see,  
Comin' for to carry me home!  
A band of angels comin' after me,  
Comin' for to carry me home!

*Chorus:*

If you get there before I do,  
Comin' for to carry me home,  
Jess tell my friends that I'm acomin' too,  
Comin' for to carry me home.

*Chorus:*

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down,  
Comin' for to carry me home,  
But still my soul feels heavenly bound  
Comin' for to carry me home!

### **The Gospel Train's A'Comin'**

Story: This song was sung to tell other slaves that they were preparing to escape. The "Gospel Train" was code for Underground Railroad.

**Lyrics:**

The Gospel train's a'comin'  
I hear it just at hand  
I hear the car wheel rumblin'  
And rollin' thro' the land

*Chorus:*

*Get on board little children  
Get on board little children  
Get on board little children  
There's room for many more*

I hear the train a'comin'  
She's comin' round the curve  
She's loosened all her steam and brakes  
And strainin' ev'ry nerve

*Chorus:*

The fare is cheap and all can go  
The rich and poor are there  
No second class aboard this train  
No difference in the fare