

## Story - The Middle Passage

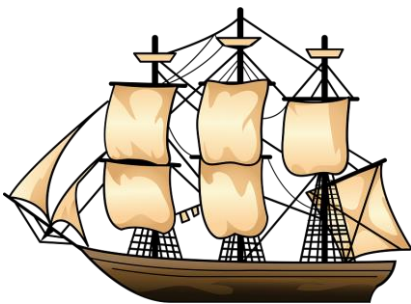
### Ama's Journey Across the Middle Passage

Once upon a time, in the early 18th century, there was a young woman named Ama who lived in a small village on the West African coast. Ama was known for her intelligence, wit, and compassion. Her world was shattered when she was captured by slave traders and forced onto a ship named The Howling Gale, bound for the Americas across the treacherous Middle Passage. The voyage would take around 80 days.

The conditions aboard The Howling Gale were unimaginable. Ama and the other captives were crammed into the ship's hold, chained together in a space so small they had no room to move or even sit up. The stench of human waste, sweat, and vomit filled the air, making it difficult to breathe. The lack of ventilation and sanitation led to the rapid spread of diseases such as dysentery and smallpox.



Every day, Ama and the other captives were given meager rations of food and water, barely enough to keep them alive. Many suffered from malnutrition and dehydration, causing their bodies to waste away. The captives were occasionally brought on deck for exercise, but these brief moments of fresh air and sunlight were marred by the brutal whippings they received from the crew.



Ama's strength and spirit were tested each day as she bore witness to the death and suffering around her. The ship's crew callously discarded the bodies of those who had succumbed to illness or starvation, casting them into the sea as if they were mere objects, devoid of any humanity.

During one of the brief moments on deck, Ama met an elderly captive named Kofi, who had been a respected healer in his village. In hushed whispers, they shared their stories and dreams of freedom. Kofi told Ama about a secret stash of herbs and remedies he had managed to hide from the crew. Together, they concocted a plan to use Kofi's knowledge of healing to alleviate some of the suffering around them.

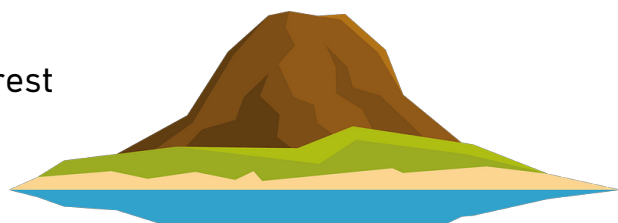
Under the cover of darkness, Ama and Kofi risked their lives to treat the wounds and illnesses of their fellow captives. They used the herbs to stave off infection and reduce fever, giving their brothers and sisters a fighting chance at survival. Word spread of Ama and Kofi's secret healings, and their acts of kindness and bravery became a beacon of hope amidst the darkness.

As The Howling Gale neared the end of its journey across the Middle Passage, a violent storm overtook the ship. The crew struggled to maintain control, and in the chaos, Ama saw an opportunity. She rallied her fellow captives, and together, they staged a revolt. Though weakened by their ordeal, the captives' sheer will to live fueled their strength.

In a fierce battle, Ama and her fellow captives overpowered the crew and took control of The Howling Gale. With their newfound freedom, they faced a difficult choice: to return to Africa or to seek refuge in the Americas, where they could potentially build a new life away from the horrors of slavery.

Ultimately, they decided to head for the nearest land, where they hoped to find a safe haven. Ama, Kofi, and the others worked tirelessly to navigate the stormy seas, their bond strengthened by their shared struggle for survival.

Though their journey was fraught with hardship, Ama's resilience and determination inspired those around her. The captives aboard The Howling Gale persevered through the most horrific of conditions, their will to live and the hope of freedom burning brightly within them. Their story would serve as a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the power of hope in the face of unimaginable adversity.



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## Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer

1) What century was Ama on the ship?	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>
2) Was Ama a slave in Africa?	Yes	No
3) What was the name of the ship she was on?	Howling Boat	Howling Gale
4) They had no room to even _____	Lay down	Sit up
5) It smelled of vomit, sweat, and human _____	Waste	Body odour
6) There was no _____ below the deck	Light	Ventilation
7) Which disease spread quickly?	Dysentery	Cholera
8) They were sometimes allowed	Food	On Deck
9) Many died of...	Starvation	Old age
10) They rarely got fresh air and...	Time to sleep	Sunlight

## Questions

Use information from the text to support your answer

1) What were the living conditions on the ship for Ama?

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2) How were African slaves treated on these ships?

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3) Why do you think Ama didn't decide to travel back to Africa?

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