

Black Atlantic Character Template Sample

Below, we provide an example of a “Character Template” from Dr. Alan Rice’s workshop, as described in his essay, “Dramatising the Black Atlantic.”

Note from the author:

If you use this example for teaching or create parallel versions of your own in line with the essay’s approach, please do email Dr. Rice to share news of your work, and be sure credit his essay and this sample as your guiding source for adapting the workshop model. ARice@uclan.ac.uk

Name: Henry ‘Box’ Brown

Place of Birth: 45 miles from Richmond (Virginia), in Louisa County (1815)

Race: Black, African

Status: Born a Slave, then escaped from Slavery becoming a well known speaker for Anti-Slavery Society.

Master? Employer: At the death of Brown’s original master ownership transferred to his son William Barret. From 1830 is employed in a tobacco factory.

Purchase Price: None documented, inherited.

Accomplishments: Escapes from Slavery in 1849 (is posted in a package!!) to become a recognised Anti-Slavery speaker, an Author and a showman, lives in Britain 1850-1871.

Marital Status: Married to Nancy – At least 3 children and then to Jane in England (3 children)

Place of Death: Not documented.

Evidence: Illustrations, Lithograph of *The Resurrection of Henry Box Brown at Philadelphia*, engravings etc: Henry Box Brown, *Narrative of the Life of Henry Box Brown* (Oxford 2002), census records & Shrewsbury Playbill (Dec 1859).