

REFLECTION GUIDE



“THE EMANCIPATOR”

CONSIDER

- How did Elihu Embree’s personal life conflict with his professional accomplishments? Does one fact matter more than the other?
- How would you describe Elihu Embree’s legacy to someone else?
- Who do you empathize with in the story? Why?
- Were you surprised to learn that the first abolitionist periodical in the United States was published in Tennessee? Why or why not?
- How does the storyteller portray Elihu Embree’s relationship with his slaves?
- The process for creating historical markers varies from state to state. Why does it matter who writes the text on these plaques?

DIG DEEPER: RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Emancipator

Explore Elihu Embree’s publication as a primary source, available in full online.

“Why Historical Markers Matter”

Smithsonian Magazine takes a close look at how historical markers are created in the United States.



“He Published the First Abolitionist Newspaper in America. He Was Also an Enslaver.”

Jonesborough-based historian Anne G’Fellers Mason breaks down Embree’s complex and self-contradictory story.

“Nancy: The Woman Who Inspired ‘The Emancipator’”

Anne G’Fellers Mason wrote a play about Nancy, one of the people who was enslaved by Embree. Learn more about Nancy’s contribution to the history of abolitionism.