

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave - 1845

Douglass began sharing his story publicly, became involved in the abolitionist movement, and later moved to Massachusetts, where his powerful speeches earned him a position with the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. In 1845, he published his famous autobiography. During the Civil War, he became an influential voice, even advising Abraham Lincoln, with whom he later reconciled after initial disagreements.

Later in life, after Anna's death, Douglass remained a white activist and continued fighting for social causes, including women's suffrage.

What Is the Slave Is The Four of July - 1852

What Is the Slave Is The Four of July? is a powerful speech delivered by Frederick Douglass in 1852, in which he exposes the profound hypocrisy of celebrating the independence of the United States while millions of people were still enslaved. Addressing a mostly white audience, Douglass praises the ideals of liberty and justice of the American Revolution, but soon reveals the stark contrast between those principles and the reality of slavery.

With forceful arguments, he denounces the cruelty, injustice, and inhumanity of the institution of slavery against people, questioning how a nation that proclaims itself free can continue to uphold such a system. The speech remains one of the most impactful critiques of the United States' moral contradictions and a landmark in the struggle for civil rights and abolition.

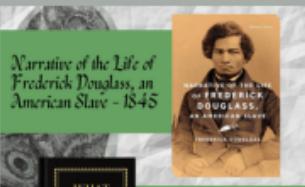
Frederick Douglass was born around 1818 with a date unknown even to himself in Talbot County, Maryland. Douglass' mother was an African woman who his father was, so they were separated onto different plantations after his birth. Consequently, he lived with his maternal grandmother, Betty Bailey, starting with her until the age of six, when he was sold to a plantation from his grandmother to the Dray family.

Even as a young boy, he reduced all the horrors of slavery and grew up within those realities. At the age of 9, he was sent to work for his master's brother in Baltimore, and there Douglass was introduced by his master's son to the broader "abolition" and the term "revolution" to the broader's wife's "abolition" and "abolitionism".

Douglass experienced the worst period of his life there he was observed and whipped daily. After multiple attempts to escape, he finally made it to New York City, where he stayed in the safe house of abolitionist David Ruggles. It was there that he also found the love of his life, Anna Murray, who he happened to already know from having lived on the same plantation as the former "owners". She had escaped her master and his current wife's control, and soon after they married and had five children.

After living with her for a year, he began regularly telling his story at church, emphasizing the importance of the abolition cause. In 1841, he traveled to Boston, Massachusetts, where he delivered one of his most acclaimed speeches to the white leaders of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. There, he was killed as an abolitionist leader, directly engaging in the movement.

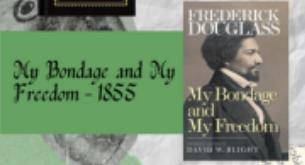
In 1850, he published his first and most famous autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. The following year, he played an influential role during the Civil War, serving as a spy for the Union Army. In 1855, he also married Anna Murray again. Douglass grew disinterested with him for not proclaiming the right to vote for formerly enslaved people even though Lincoln had deserved it and of slavery. They later received God, and Douglass spoke at his funeral. At the age of 110, after marrying a white activist and fought alongside her for the achievement of women's suffrage.



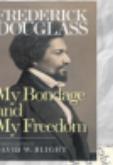
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What Is the Slave Is The Four of July - 1852



My Bondage and My Freedom - 1855



Curiosities

1. He published in his newspaper *The North Star*, which aimed to fight for the rights of Black society, women's rights, and the right to universal education.
"Right is of no Sex — Truth is of no Color — God is the Father of us all, and we are all Brethren."

2. After Douglass's death, Congress built—
at the request of his second wife—the
'Frederick Douglass Memorial and
Historical Association' at his home in
Anacostia. It was opened on September 19,
1962, and in 1965 it was declared a national
historic landmark.

3. He became one of the main representatives of nineteenth-century American literature with his autobiography, which, more than telling his life story, became a manifesto for racial equality.



"Right is of no Sex — Truth is of no Color —
God is the Father of us all, and we are all
Brethren" — Douglass, Frederick