

Frederick Douglass

The Lion Who Wrote History



Author:
Walter Dean Myers

Illustrator:
Floyd Cooper

Awards

Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, Biography, 2018
ILA Children's Choices Reading List, Selection, 2018
Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature Best Books, 2017

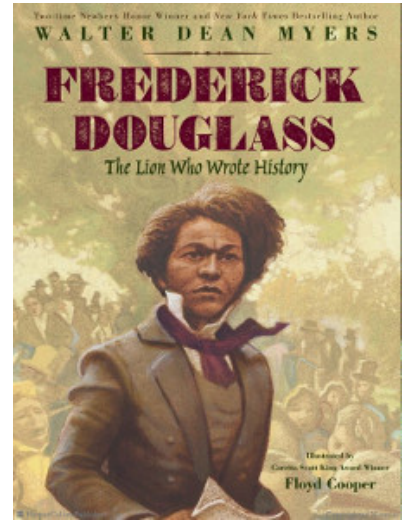
Vocabulary

eloquence, abolitionist, lure

Reviews

[Kirkus Reviews](#)

[Publishers Weekly](#)



Summary

This inspiring picture book biography tells of Frederick Douglass' courageous journey to literacy and freedom and his heroic actions as an abolitionist.

FAIR Standard

DV.3-5.8 I can discuss specific people from history who drew power from their humanity, culture, and American ideals to fight racism and intolerance.

Discussion

1. The slave owner Hugh Auld said, "Teaching a slave to read will make him unfit to be a slave." Frederick thought about this and decided to learn to read. How did his learning to read change the course of his life?
2. Many pictures throughout the book are close-ups of Frederick Douglass' face. How do the illustrations show us what Frederick was thinking and feeling throughout the different events in his life? Select one of the illustrations and describe what you think Douglass was thinking or feeling at that moment.
3. The author writes that Douglass "could speak with an eloquence that stirred the souls of his audience." Why did people find so much value in Frederick Douglass' speeches? What did they hear from him and learn from him?

Discussion

4. Why does the title compare Frederick Douglass to a lion? Share some examples of his qualities or actions that seem lionlike.
5. The first page of this book mentions Frederick Douglass' "careful decisions" that "not only made his life better but in many ways changed the history of America." What were some of Frederick's most important decisions? How did they make his own life better? How did they change the history of America?

Activities

1. Douglass fled slavery by pretending to be a free black sailor. [Create an aged map](#) showing the route he took by train and then by boat to get to freedom. Add a legend to your map with symbols to show where and how he traveled.



2. From the time he was a child, Frederick Douglass acted courageously in many different ways. Create a "book in a bag" by adding 3-5 items that represent Douglass' courageous actions from the text. Consider writing a few sentences to explain how each item represents an action he took.