

# Elementary Grades Booklist

**Codes** indicate Historical Fiction (HF), Non-Fiction (NF), Biography (BIO).

**Accelerated Reader (AR) Levels** indicate school grade and month, based on vocabulary difficulty.

**AR Points** indicate the length of the book (more points; longer book).

Level is given first, then points. (4.6 / 0.5 - fourth grade, sixth month / relatively short book).

AR tests are available for all the books with AR levels / points.

Author	Title	Genre	AR
Adler, David A.	<i>The Picture Book of Frederick Douglass</i>	BIO	4.6 / 0.5
Adler, David A.	<i>The Picture Book of Harriet Tubman</i>	BIO	4.3 / 0.5
Adler, David A.	<i>The Picture Book of Sojourner Truth</i>	BIO	5.4 / 0.5
Cole, Henry	<i>Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad</i> (Picture Book)		—
Hoobler, Dorothy & Thomas	<i>Next Stop Freedom: The Story of a Slave Girl</i>	HF	4.0 / 2.0
Hopkins, Deborah	<i>Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt</i>	HF	3.8 / 0.5
McKissack, Patricia & Fredrick	<i>Frederick Douglass: Leader Against Slavery</i>	BIO	3.9 / 0.5
McKissack, Patricia & Fredrick	<i>Sojourner Truth: A Voice for Freedom</i>	BIO	3.7 / 0.5
McMullan, Kate	<i>The Story of Harriet Tubman, Conductor of the UGRR</i>	BIO	4.3 / 2.0
Monjo, F. N	<i>The Drinking Gourd</i>	HF	2.1 / 1.0
Paterson, Katherine	<i>Jip-His Story</i>	HF	4.2 / 7.0
Paulsen, Gary	<i>Nightjohn</i>	HF	3.8 / 1.0
Paulsen, Gary	<i>Sarny: A Life Remembered</i> (sequel to <i>Nightjohn</i> )	HF	5.4 / 6.0
Porter, Connie	<i>Meet Addy</i> (American Girl Series, Book 1)	HF	4.1 / 1.0
Porter, Connie	<i>Addy Learns a Lesson: A School Story</i> (American Girl Series, Book 2)	HF	4.1 / 1.0
Porter, Connie	<i>Addy's Surprise: A Christmas Story</i> (American Girl Series, Book 3)	HF	4.5 / 1.0
Porter, Connie	<i>Happy Birthday Addy: A Springtime Story</i> (AG Series, Book 4)	HF	4.5 / 1.0
Porter, Connie	<i>Addy Saves the Day: A Summer Story</i> (American Girl Series, Book 5)	HF	4.3 / 1.0
Porter, Connie	<i>Changes for Addy: A Winter Story</i> (American Girl Series, Book 6)	HF	4.5 / 1.0
Ringgold, Faith	<i>Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky</i>	HF	3.5 / 1.0
Robinet, Harriette Gillem	<i>Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule</i>	HF	4.3 / 5.0
Robinet, Harriette Gillem	<i>Washington City is Burning</i>	HF	4.7 / 4.0
Turner, Ann	<i>Nettie's Trip South</i>	HF	3.0 / 0.5
Walker, Sally B.	<i>Freedom Song: The Story of Henry "Box" Brown</i>	BIO	3.9 / 0.5
Weiner, Eric	<i>The Story of Frederick Douglass, Voice of Freedom</i>	BIO	4.3 / 2.0
Winter, Jeanette	<i>Follow the Drinking Gourd</i>	HF	4.3 / 0.5
Wisler, G. Clifton	<i>Caleb's Choice</i>	HF	4.4 / 5.0

Adler, David A.

**Picture Book of Frederick Douglass**

New York: Holiday House, 1993.

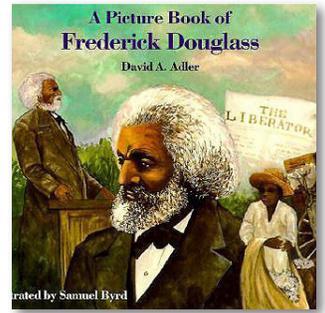
Biography. (Illustrated by Samuel Byrd). 28 pages.

AR Level 4.6 / 0.5 points

Born a slave with an unknown white father, Frederick Bailey was raised mainly by his grandmother. A kindly mistress taught him the alphabet, but had to stop because it was illegal. Frederick, however, continued to teach himself, reading whenever he could. He worked in a Baltimore shipyard, from which he escaped north. He worked menial jobs, then was hired by William Lloyd Garrison to make antislavery speeches and sell subscriptions to the *Liberator*.

He wrote his autobiography and, because he risked re-capture having used his real name, fled to England. Some English friend bought his freedom; he returned home. In Rochester, he published *The North Star*, spoke for women's rights, housed runaways on the UGRR. During the Civil War, he helped recruit black troops, although unhappy about unequal pay. Stayed active all his life; second wife white.

Important dates; Author's Notes: how he took name Douglass from character in Scott's *Lady of the Lake*.



Adler, David A.

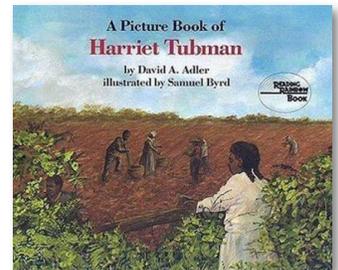
**Picture Book of Harriet Tubman**

New York: Holiday House, 1992.

Biography. (Illustrated by Samuel Byrd). 28 pages.

AR Level 4.3 / 0.5 points

Born on the Brodas plantation. Whipped for taking a sugar lump. Hit in the head by an iron weight; led to lifelong sleeping spells. Harriet's husband John is free, won't leave; her brothers are afraid; Harriet goes alone. White woman helps (UGRR). Menial chores gave money for repeated trips South. Code songs used to connect with slaves, carried gun for protection and to keep runaways from returning, code named "Moses" (freeing her people)" Nurse during Civil War. Helped freed slaves after war, told story. Important dates listed at end.



Adler, David A.

**Picture Book of Sojourner Truth**

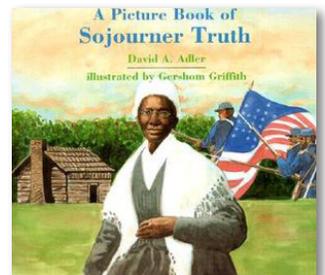
New York: Holiday House, 1994.

Biography. (Illustrated by Gershon Griffith). 27 pages.

AR Level 5.4 / 0.5 points

Named Isabella ("Belle"), born in Hurley, NY. Siblings many, scattered. Several masters, hard worker in house and field. Was to have been freed, but owner changed his mind. Son was to be sold out of state (then illegal in NY), she went to court and won / first black woman in U.S. to win lawsuit against a white man. In religious community, wrongly accused of poisoning leader; won lawsuit against slanderer. Spirit called her to travel and preach; took name Sojourner Truth. Illiterate; much of Bible by memory. In Akron gave famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech. Friend collaborated on *Narrative of Sojourner Truth* in 1850. Helped escaped slaves; spoke out for equality in the midst of discrimination. Refused to take assigned seat / get off trolley.

Important dates listed, Author's Notes gives interesting tid-bits.



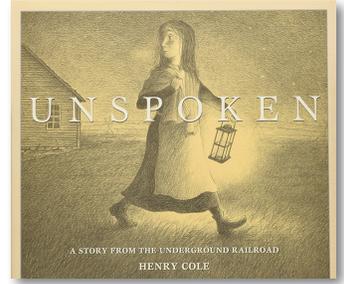
Cole, Henry

***Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad***

New York: Scholastic Press, 2012.

Picture Book. 34 pages.

not AR



In this story told without words, a young girl discovers a runaway slave hiding in her family's barn. At first frightened, she realizes that she can help the fugitive by taking food. She keeps the secret. Slave hunters come to the farm, but nobody knows about the hiding slave except the young girl, and she's not talking. The slave hunters go away empty-handed and, when the girl goes to check, she finds a corn-husk doll left behind for her as a thank you gift. The last page shows her in bed, looking at the Big Dipper out her window.

Author's Note tells how he heard Civil War stories from family members as a child about surviving during the war on a dairy farm in Loudoun County, Virginia. He wanted to show "the courage of everyday people who were brave in quiet ways."

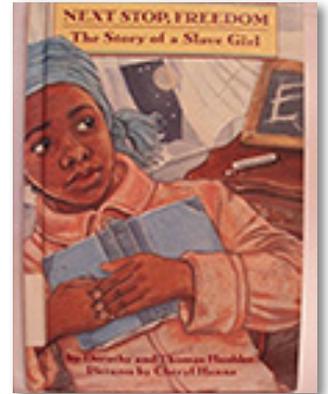
Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas

***Next Stop Freedom: The Story of a Slave Girl***

Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Silver Burdett Press, 1991.

Historical Fiction. 54 pages.

AR Level 4.0 / 2.0 points



"Why Can't I Learn to Read?"

Emily is a slave, serving Mas'r and Missus and their sons Frederick and Thomas. She and her brother Isaiah had been sold away from their mother four years ago, when he was 12 and she was 6. Thomas taunts Emily, who is sent to spend the day in the quarters after she's in a tutoring session with Thomas and Frederick. Thomas has told her that slaves can't read, but Aunt Jen explains that slaves aren't allowed to read. They make a cornhusk doll to name Thomas and treat any way they want. Emily learns S and O from Aunt Jen.

A Whipping

Isaiah is whipped for stealing a chicken from the coop for the sick girl. Emily is told to act natural afterward. After dinner, Cook sends her to Aunt Jen with grease, which Aunt Jen puts on Isaiah's wounds. Isaiah says he's going to "follow the star" to freedom.

Moses Is Coming!

Emily goes with the other slaves to a church service in the woods. The preacher tells about Moses leading his people to freedom. Later, Aunt Jen says that a woman named Moses is coming to take slaves to freedom. That night, the stables burn down. Rachel, the girl who had been sick, says that Moses started the fire.

The Underground Railroad

"Moses" causes a lot of mischief. Salt/sugar mix-up gets Emily a week of work in the cotton fields. The others give her cotton so she makes her quota. That night, Moses comes. Before she leaves, Emily sneaks up to the schoolroom, writes an "E" on Thomas' slate and takes the blue-backed book. Then she says goodbye to Aunt Jen and races through the woods to catch up with the others. In the creek, she falls.

Road to Freedom

Moses outsmarts the dogs and paddyrollers. Slaves spend a week with a Quaker family until the heat dies down. Then they go on. Harriet stays behind to get more people

Making a cornhusk doll. History, directions, diagram, tips.

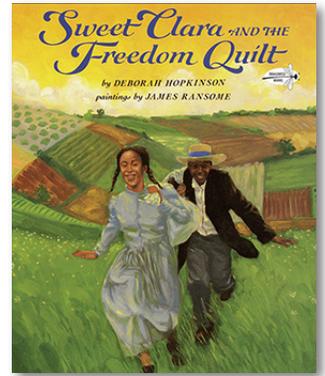
Hopkins, Deborah  
***Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt***

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1993.  
Historical Fiction. (Paintings by James Ransome). 29 pages.  
AR Level 3.8 / 0.5 points

Told by Sweet Clara, in first person. At age 11, Sweet Clara is sent away from her momma to another plantation where they need field hands. She is desperately unhappy. "Aunt" Rachel, seeing that Sweet Clara wouldn't survive in the fields, teaches her to sew, and she does sewing at the Big House one day. Missus approves of her work and she becomes a seamstress.

Some drivers come one day with some white men. While the white men are convincing Master to become a pateroller, the drivers tell the slaves that they are near the Ohio River and could get to Canada on the UGRR if they had a map to the river and then got on the UGRR. Aunt Rachel explains the UGRR and "map" to Sweet Clara. Clara starts asking slaves - casually - where the various fields are located, then pieces a quilt that's a map.

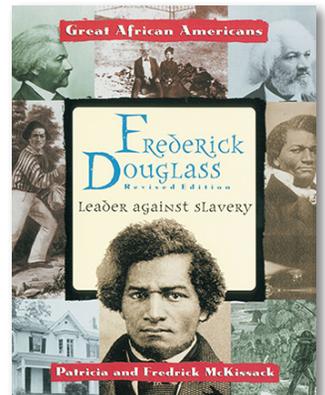
Young Jack runs, but is caught. Clara draws a map in the dirt; Jack adds to it. Gradually, Clara gets enough information to finish the quilt/map to the Ohio River. Aunt Rachel says she should take it, but Clara has it memorized and will leave it behind for others. Clara and Jack leave during a thunderstorm. They go to North Farm for Momma and baby Anna. The remembered quilt guides them to the UGRR's hidden boat for crossing the Ohio. They eventually get to Canada and freedom. Others from that plantation and others nearby study the quilt and use it to guide them to freedom also.



McKissack, Patricia and Fredrick  
***Frederick Douglass: Leader Against Slavery***

Hillside, NJ: Enslow Publisher, Inc., 1991.  
Biography. Great African American Series. 29 pages.  
AR Level 3.9 / 0.5 points

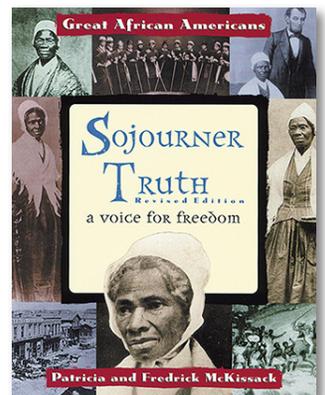
Words to Know, Index, Photos and illustrations  
Rather simple language; pretty basic.



McKissack, Patricia and Fredrick  
***Sojourner Truth: A Voice for Freedom***

Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publisher, Inc., 1992.  
Biography. Great African American Series. 29 pages.  
AR Level 3.7 / 0.5 points

Words to Know, Index, Photos and illustrations  
Rather simple language; pretty basic.



McMullan, Kate

### ***The Story of Harriet Tubman, Conductor of the UGRR.***

Milwaukee: Gareth Stevens Publishing, 1997.

Biography. 105 pages.

AR Level 4.3 / 2.0 points

Hired Out!: Minty is child on Brodas plantation. Goes to Cook home, help weave, muskrat traps. Sent back.

Miss Susan: Cleaning, keeping baby quiet. Whipped repeatedly. Stole sugar cube / whipped.

Minty Takes a Stand: Field work. Information on UGRR. Hit in head by weight thrown at running slave; nursed to health.

John Tubman: Her father teaches her about North Star, etc. while working together in field. John Tubman - marries/loves/free but won't hear of her leaving

Go Free or Die!: John remains firm, brothers chicken out. Leaves alone, Quaker woman helps.

Crossing the Line: Harriet's adventures on the road; crosses Mason-Dixon Line.

Another Escape: Links up with Philadelphia Quakers; abolitionists; rescues sister and children from slave pens about to be auctioned; trip to freedom.

All Aboard!: Fugitive Slave Law. Goes back for John, but he's married to someone else; winters in St. Catharines, Canada, summers in Philadelphia and making rescue trips; father Ben has not "seen" them.

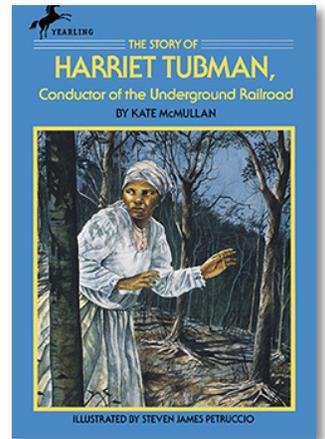
"General Moses" Tubman: Typical rescue trip stories.

The Final Trips: Rescues elderly parents; rescues Charles Nalle from auction; Harriet is "wanted"

Civil War: Nurse for soldiers; spy.

Years of Glory: Helped slaves adjust to freedom; told stories.

Timeline, Bibliography, Index



Monjo, F.N.

### ***The Drinking Gourd***

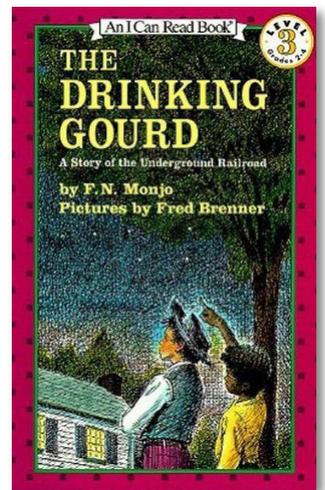
New York: Harper Collins Publishers, Inc., 1970.

Historical Fiction. 62 pages.

AR Level 2.0 / 1.0 point

Text of song "Follow the Drinking Gourd". Tommy, bored in church, ties an apple core on a string and throws it out the window to some geese. A goose grabs the core and won't let go. The commotion causes Tommy to be sent home to his room. Tommy goes into the barn and discovers a black family, hidden there by his father, Deacon Fuller. Little Jeff explains about the Drinking Gourd. The family is en route from Carolina to Canada (Jeff, Vinnie, Little Jeff, and Baby Pearl).

Father gets home, sees that Tommy has discovered his passengers, and takes him along on the wagon as he conveys them to the next station. They explain the UGRR to Tommy and swear him to secrecy. At the river bank, Father looks for a boat, a whippoorwill calls, and the U.S. Marshall arrives, looking for the runaways. Tommy, apparently "alone" on the wagon, says he's the runaway, hoping to avoid a licking for the incident in church. Lawmen laugh and leave; Father reappears and praises Toppo, whom he sends home with the wagon while he rows the slave family to the next station. Final chapter discusses breaking a law that will eventually be changed and property-vs.-person status of blacks. Historical notes at end.



Paterson, Katherine

### **Jip: His Story**

New York: Puffin Books, 1996.

Historical Fiction. 180 pages.

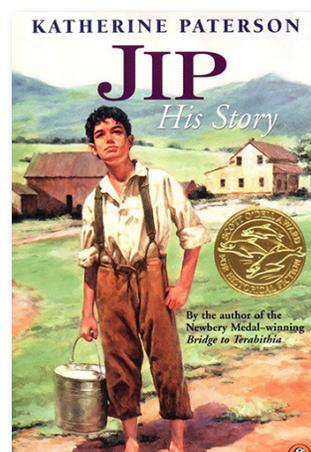
AR Level 4.2 / 7.0 points

Jip has lived as an orphan on the town poor farm ever since he fell off a wagon that was passing through the Vermont farm town. As he grows into a lad old enough to do chores, he becomes the most helpful resident to Mr. Lyman, the farm manager. Sheldon, strong but simple minded, will only work under Jip's direction, and he can soothe all the farm animals. A lunatic is brought to the farm. Put (Putnam Nelson) has periodic fits and must be caged during these, but is befriended by Jip and is very helpful during his sane periods. The widow of the town drunk, Mrs. Wilkens, and her children Lucy, toddler Toddy and another son. Lucy is aloof, but Toddy worships Jip. Lucy and Jip are sent to school, where the Teacher is a kind and capable woman. Sheldon works in the quarry, but is killed.

Jip, so named because he is swarthy and they think he may be a gypsy, has always wondered why nobody ever came back for him. Then a stranger comes to town and asks him about his origins. Jip has bad vibes and reveals little. The stranger returns and says that someone who thought Jip was dead may want him back. More bad vibes. Then the stranger returns, bringing a fair man who looks like Jip. This spooks Jip, who rides out of town in the wagon to the farm of Quakers, Luke Stephens and his family, to whom Teacher told him to turn if he ever needed any help.

It turns out that Jip's mother was a slave and his father the white planter how on his trail with the slaver/stranger. His mother had run away with him, but was recaptured. She dropped him off the wagon to keep him from a life in bondage. Luke is an UGRR conductor. Put must go with him, Jip insists. They are to escape from the poor farm and go to Stephens. They can't because the master and slaver have staked out the farm. Jip is hidden in a log cabin, but escapes into the woods just as the slaver comes. Reunited with the ill Put in the forest, he is on his way to the Avery farm when he is spotted and captured. Put comes out of the woods, playing the "lunatic" and singing "All is Well." The slaver shoots him, but he falls on the slaver, whose head is burst when he hits the granite. Luke and Teacher insist he wait for a trial to prove to them that he is Jip's owner. They plan to claim to be his parents. Jip can't suborn this perjury by his friends and escapes out the window, running to freedom in "Canady."

Epilogue tells that he is taken in by the Rev. Ezekiel Freeman in Canada. Teacher and Luke marry. Words and music for "All is Well." Poetic-type imagery, especially in early chapters describing life in rural Vermont.



Paulsen, Gary

### **Nightjohn**

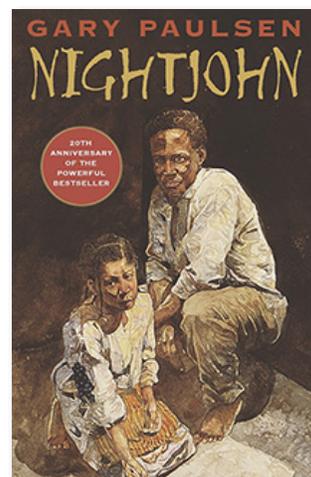
New York: Bantam Doubleday, Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1993.

Historical Fiction. 92 pages.

AR Level 3.8 / 1.0 point

Dedicated to the memory of Sally Hemings.

Sarny, a mute being raised by a mammy because her birthing mammy was a breeder, begins with scathing assessment of "master" Clel Waller. Nightjohn, heavily whip-scarred, is walked (shackled to horse) into yard and straight to fields by Old Waller to hoe. Sarny has to chew tobacco and then spit the juices on bugs in the rose garden, so she has a few tobacco leaves. Nightjohn says he'll "trade" the letters A, B and C for some tobacco leaves; Sarny gives him some and learns the look and sound of A. Nightjohn says the whites don't want slaves to learn to read because they might then want what the whites have. Sarny agreed - she wanted it. He said his name was John.



Alice, addled and marked as a breeder, was found near the white house. She was chained to the wall of the spring house and, with all the slaves watching, whipped raw by Old Waller, who then had salt rubbed in the wounds and left her overnight. Flies laid some maggots in the wounds. Mammy then nursed her, but she was unresponsive. Then she ran.

Two previous slaves had run, neither got away. Jim was tracked by Old Waller's dogs - even when he waded a stream and walked a rail fence—until they caught him in a tree, where the dogs ate the meat off his dangling legs and left his corpse still hanging, gripping branches, for the birds to finish off. Pawley, too small statured to be a breeder, found a girl on a nearby plantation. One night coming home from seeing her, he fell asleep and didn't get back in time. The dogs caught him coming home, ripped him up badly. He was then castrated, but it was botched and he bled to death. The dogs found Alice and tore her up bad, but didn't kill her. Mammy stitched her up.

John taught Sarny B, but mammy intervenes. Turns out John escaped once and got to the North, but came back to slavery so he could teach reading and writing - to document slavery. Sarny writes "BAG" in the dust; Waller catches her. He chains mammy to the spring house, then strips her and makes her pull the carriage like a horse. John admits he's the teacher, and Waller has a toe cut off each of his feet. While recovering, he teaches Sarny the next letter. Then he runs.

After a season, Sarny starts her "troubles" and fears she is headed for the breeding shed. John appears one night and takes her to a pit school in the woods where he is teaching slaves from several plantations to read. He has a catalogue, which they'll all be able to read soon. The slaves know he's been there when they see the tracks of his bare feet, middle toes missing, in the dirt by the end of the drive.

Details of slave life: eating from trough, adults sopping with cornbread, children licking what's left in the trough; cook (and cook prays) in big black kettle; no light allowed in quarters after dark.

Paulsen, Gary

***Sarny: A Life Remembered***

New York: Delacorte Press, 1997.

Historical Fiction. 178 pages.

AR Level 5.4 / 6.0 points

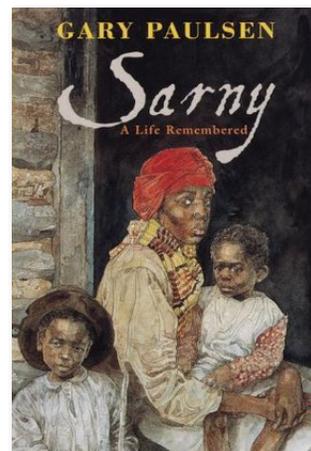
Sequel to Nightjohn.

"Also for Sally Hemings" dedication; At age 94 [Federal Writers' Project?], Sarny says misses her dead loved ones and remembers plantation life, so will write it down.

The Plantation

When Nightjohn had his school in the woods, reading caught on slowly, then spread faster, especially among women. Sarny marries Martin and has son Tyler and daughter Delie. Martin dies of overwork; Waller (master) drinks and gambles, sells off her children. She's chained to a cabin so she can't run off. Union soldiers come. Waller is killed (bayonet) and Sarny is unchained. She goes to city looking for children; Lucy joins her. Find where slaver Greerson had his office, find bill of sale for children to William Chivington of New Orleans. See a black man beating Greerson to death. See a battle/skirmish; get "directions" to New Orleans and set off walking. Come upon Great House with white family killed; two-year-old boy whimpering in a closet. Take him along, Tyler Two, riding in wheelbarrow. First a several-day rainstorm holds them back, then there's a battle and they stay on to help ease the dying until all have passed over.

They are picked up by pretty, white Laura Harris in a carriage. She will pay \$20/month for traveling help. Hints that she's a madam, is en route to New Orleans and knows the man who has Sarny's children. Miss Laura "passes;" uses feminine wiles to get men to do things for her. Soldiers escort carriage on crowded roads. They stay at night in carriage house on nearly abandoned plantation. War ends (Appomattox) before they reach New Orleans. On arriving, Sarny and Lucy overwhelmed at size of house, number of rooms, doing their "doings" inside and a perfumed bubble bath with running hot and cold water.



## New Orleans

Sarny does marketing with Bartlett, learns to bargain. They prepare for big end-of-the-war party. Sarny has door duty; Delie and Tyler just walk on in with Mr. Chivington. Laura arranges for them to stay with Sarny. Sarny delights in reading, especially Shakespeare, Lucy marries and moves north. Sarny marries Stanley, from the market, and Miss Laura buys a house for a wedding gift.

Sarny starts a school for coloreds in spite of Miss Laura's warning that some whites don't want blacks to get too far along. The first school building is burned. Then they use a tent. It's eventually burned, and Sarny sees Haggerty coming out. She tells Stanley, who goes to the market and beats up Haggerty. The whitehoods come in the night and lynch him. Miss Laura uses her connections and Haggerty is sent to prison for manslaughter. She also insists Sarny continue the school, but keep it moving.

Miss Laura's heart fails. She has Sarny call lawyers, plans her own wake, dies. Bartlett is devastated. Will get monthly income for life. Sarny gets the rest—lots of business investments—and is very wealthy (many Northern businesses, real estate in New Orleans, etc.). Tyler becomes a doctor, little Delie manages the money and Sarny goes off to Texas, going from town to town setting up black schools as she goes. Finally, Tyler dies, she gets old and moves into a home, waiting to join her deceased friends and family.

Afterward tells what's true and what's fiction.

## Porter, Connie

### ***Meet Addy (American Girl Series, Book 1)***

Middleton, WI: Pleasant Company Publications, 1993.

Historical Fiction. 69 pages.

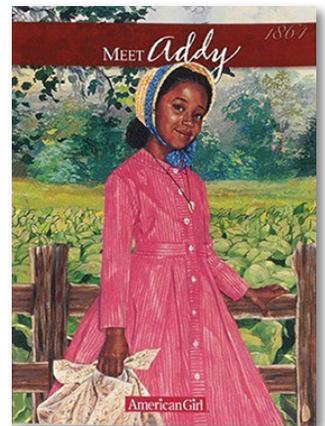
AR Level 4.1 / 1.0 point.

Addy Walker (9) overhears her parents planning to escape, afraid for Sam (15), who has already run and been recaptured. Addy works in the tobacco fields, pulling worms off the leaves and carrying the water bucket to the adult workers. Then she helps Auntie Lula serve dinner to Master Stevens, who she hears talk about selling Sam and Poppa. She tries to warn them, but they are chained, put on a wagon and taken away. Distraught, Addy overlooks some of the tobacco worms, and the overseer makes her eat the ones she missed.

Momma tells Addy they will be running away, but must leave Esther with Auntie Lula and Uncle Solomon until the war ends. They will be dressed in men's / boy's clothes to disguise themselves and confuse their scent. They leave, with Esther in Auntie Lula's care and Janie, Addy's doll, as a toy for Esther.

They run through the woods at night. There are strange sounds, but Addy remembers to keep her emotions inside and not to holler out. As they rest in a cave during the day, Momma brings out a cowrie shell that came with Addy's grandmother, Aduke ("much loved") from Africa. Both brave women, but one's journey ended in slavery and the other's will end in freedom. Crossing the river that night, Momma—who can't swim—is swept by the current and caught in the branches of a submerged log. Addy—who can swim—finds and saves her. They then follow railroad tracks and hide the next day under a pine bough shelter they construct. The next night a train goes by. Thinking that they are near the safe house, Addy runs toward a light. Instead, it is a Confederate campfire. A soldier wakes up, thinks she is the water boy, and asks for water. Addy plays along, keeps her emotions inside and fools the soldier. Then she and Momma find the safe house, where Miss Caroline - who is white and grew up on the farm next to Solomon's 50 years ago, gives them food, a hot bath and fresh "free looking" clothes. Then she hides them under sacks in her wagon and drives them to Philadelphia—and freedom.

Looking Back - 1864. A peek into the past. Brief, well illustrated section giving an idea of what life was like then.



Porter, Connie

***Addy Learns a Lesson: A School Story (American Girl Series, Book 2)***

Middleton, WI: Pleasant Company Publications, 1993.

Historical Fiction. 69 pages.

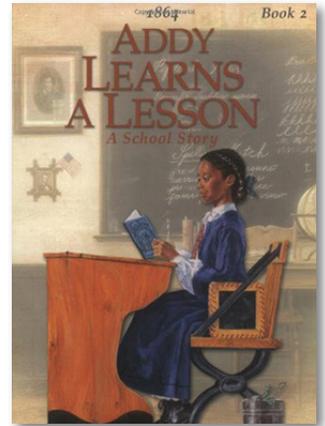
AR Level 4.1 / 1.0 point

Addy and Momma have arrived on the pier in Philadelphia. They are met by Mabel Moore and her daughter, Sarah. They'll help Addy and Momma get settled. Addy will go to school, where Miss Dunn—also a former slave will teacher her to read and do sums. They're from the Freedom Society of Trinity A.M.E. Church. They eat at a big church dinner, then go to Mrs. Ford, a dressmaker, to get a seamstress job for Momma. They will live in a small garret room there.

Freedom is a bit disappointing. Momma works long hours; Addy stays in their room except to use the privy in the alley. Then Sarah visits, takes her out. They see streetcars, which coloreds can't ride. Addy goes with Sarah to the Sixth Street School. They sit at a double desk, Miss Dunn is kind and understanding, and Addy learns to spell her name. Next day, Addy is moved to a desk with Harriet Davis. Harriet has lots of new dresses and claims to be the smartest in the class. Sarah warns her that Harriet (named for Tubman, she says) is a snob. One day Addy comes home to find Momma in tears. Mrs. Ford has written the addresses of deliveries—but Momma can't read. Addy can't read them all, either. Sarah helps. Addy starts teaching Momma letters and numbers. Addy wants to be friends with Harriet, but Harriet openly snubs Sarah.

In school, they talk of the war. It appears as if the Union will win. Harriet is aloof because, while most of the kids' families have been slaves, she says that hers has always been free. The class goes to the depot to greet soldiers and sing "Rally 'Round the Flag." After school, Harriet invites Addy to walk with them. She accepts; Sarah walks alone. The girls tell Addy she is their "flunky" and make her carry all their books.

Addy is invited - and gets permission, to study for the spelling match at Harriet's. They set off from school, with Addy carrying everyone's books, and the "in" girls gossip about how stained and wrinkled Sarah's dress looks, but Addy looks good enough to be their flunky. She feels like their slave, especially after they tell her they won't study with her after all, and is ashamed, fingering her cowrie shell. The day of the spelling match, Momma surprises Addy with a new outfit she's made from scraps at the shop. All three girls (Addy, Sarah and Harriet) pass the first round. Then Sarah misspells. Harriet misspells P-R-I-N-S-I-P-L-E; Addy gets it right. Harriet's friends admire Addy's award; praise Momma's sewing. Addy is sad; Miss Dunn tells her about lines drawn between girls in the class. Addy seeks out Sarah and apologizes. Momma has made letter cookies spelling L-O-V-E for Addy's lunch pail. A Peek into the Past - 1864. Illegal for slaves to read; segregation in free states; freedmen's alternatives.



Porter, Connie

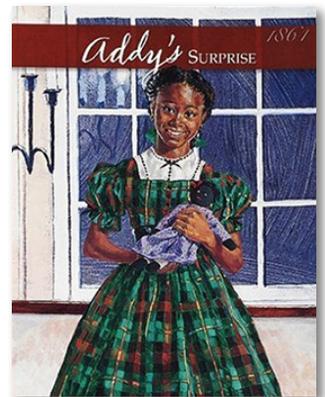
***Addy's Surprise: A Christmas Story (American Girl Series, Book 3)***

Middleton, WI: Pleasant Company Publications, 1993.

Historical Fiction. 65 pages.

AR Level 4.5 / 1.0 point

Addy and Momma live in a drafty loft room over the dressmaking shop. It's winter, but they save coal by using the stove only for cooking. Momma sews at night by candlelight; they're saving odd pennies including Addy's tips for delivering packages, to buy a lamp. Sarah, Addy's friend, wants her to be in the church Christmas pageant, but Addy has to work on Saturday, when practices are held. Sarah will teach her the songs. For the church's "family" Christmas dinner, Momma will make sweet-potato pudding. Addy sees a soft, pretty red scarf in Mr. Delmonte's store window. Should she withhold some of her tips from the lamp fund to buy it for Momma for Christmas?



Rev. Drake preaches about the needs of newly arriving freedmen—"freedom ain't free." Momma will donate the lamp fund; Addy decides to keep her 10¢ (scarf fund) but go to the pier to greet and help the arrivals after she finishes her Saturday deliveries. She sees the scared, cold arrivals and takes a woman and baby to the church for a warm meal. All afternoon, the materialism of the well-to-do seems silly in the face of the homeless refugees. She gets Mrs. Ford's scissors sharpened, but passes the store with the scarf and donates to the church Freeman's Fund instead. Mrs. Ford acknowledges Addy's maturity in delivering packages by allowing her to stay in the warm shop and hem an apron. Addy now straightens up shop and sews in afternoon.

Mrs. Howell storms into the shop with green plaid taffeta dress. Side seams are all ripped out and, although chubby Isabella has porked up since fitting, Mrs. Ford takes dress back and refunds their money. As a Christmas surprise, she re-makes the dress for the smaller Addy. It's pinned and shortened. Addy does the hem, keeps the cut-off strip of fabric.

On Christmas morning, Momma gives Addy a rag doll she's made / Ida Bean. Addy gives Momma the scarf she's made from the fabric strip. They both make the sweet-potato pudding, with even a small pan left over. They go to church for the Christmas service and then the dinner. After dinner they go to a dark room with a sheet over one end for a shadow play of the nativity. As the door to the hall opens, Addy recognizes Poppa's silhouette in the light. Reunion!

Arriving at the garret room, there's light coming under the door. Mrs. Ford has put a kerosene lamp on their table with a note. Addy reads the note; Poppa is tearful. There's hope that the freedmen's societies can help find Sam and Esther. A Peek Into the Past - 1864. Christmas celebrations, subdued because of the Civil War, North and South, free, soldier and slave. Emancipation Day (1/1/1863). Kwanzaa (new) 12/26 to 1/1.

Porter, Connie

***Happy Birthday Addy!: A Springtime Story (American Girl Series, Book 4)***

Middleton, WI: Pleasant Company Publications, 1994.

Historical Fiction. 61 pages.

AR Level 4.5 / 1.0 point

Schoolgirls doing Double Dutch. Poppa has returned; drives an ice wagon. Family has moved to a rooming house. Freedom is more difficult than they had thought, but at least there's a chance to improve, unlike under slavery. Plus, there's segregation (this is Philadelphia). Irony = Poppa sells ice to make ice cream but can't buy a dish for his daughter; "free," but can't get lots of jobs or buy in certain stores. Like Double Dutch - some people are outside the loops. Poppa finds a broken ice cream maker/freezer in the trash.

The Walker family lives in Golden's rooming house. The boarders eat together; there's talk of trouble for blacks riding streetcars, even with restrictions already in place. Mr. Golden's mother moves in. She's blind, has a canary - Sunny. Abby doesn't know her birthday - beyond being spring. Mrs. Golden says she'll know the near-perfect day when it comes; makes Addy promise to visit again, tells her to call her "M'dear."

Momma says to invite Sarah over. Sarah brings rope; they practice Double Dutch—listening to the rhythm is the secret. M'dear has a headache; has run out of medicine. The girls go for more, but the drug store is out of it. They take a streetcar to a more distant store. Clerk waits on all whites first, then blacks; is rude. On return trip, blacks are literally thrown off streetcar. Girls walk home. M'dear senses the problem; girls complain about treatment of blacks in "City of Brotherly Love." M'dear says that, like the caged canary, they need to let their spirits soar like the bird's song. Don't let prejudice defeat your spirit. Poppa wasn't considered for a carpenter's job because he's colored. She encourages him to apply one more time; Miles Roberts hires him.

M'dear has been teaching Addy how to see with her ears and sing with her heart. Addy needs to pick a birthday, as the ice cream freezer is fixed. They are wakened during the night by canon fire; think the war has come to Philadelphia. But Lee has surrendered, the war is over and the North has won. Maybe they'll see Sam and Esther. Addy picks that day as her birthday. Poppa invites the boarders to his daughter's tenth birthday party and ice cream. They decorate the dining room, have ginger



pop, cherry pie and ice cream. M'dear gives benne cookies and two canary feathers to remind Abby "to always let your spirit sing out." A Peek Into the Past - 1864. Childhood, north and south, teenagers' activities (i.e. young adults)

Porter, Connie

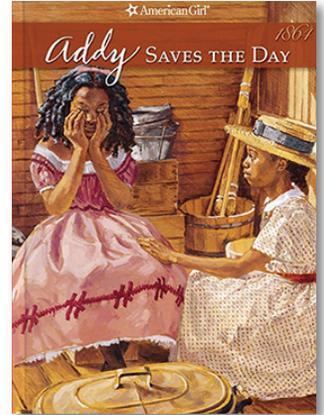
***Addy Saves the Day: A Summer Story (American Girl Series, Book 5)***

Middleton, WI: Pleasant Company Publications, 1994.

Historical Fiction. 67 pages.

AR Level 4.3 / 1.0 point

The Walkers have rented a garden plot about a mile from their boarding house. Since the war (two months), they have tried to find Sam and Esther. The things they grow will be sold for money to continue this search. They dig, line and plant. Addy stays behind to water seeds; Harriet taunts her. Addy writes letter from Poppa to Quaker Aid Society re: Sam and Esther. Grand Review of returning Union soldiers (though white, they fought to end slavery). They take letter to Quaker meeting hall, where Mr. Cooper says how difficult searches are, but hope and determination needed. At the Grand Review, Addy sits on Poppa's shoulders so she can see.



The church is holding a fair, the proceeds of which will help find lost family members. Harriet comes to the planning session, suggests that she put on a magic show. Addy proposes spool puppets (spools from the dress shop) and a puppet show (Poppa/carpenter could make a stage). Chide Addy for pride / winning idea. Money from fair will enable Poppa to go back for Esther. The girls squabble during fair prep. The day of the big fair, Harriet learns her uncle has died. She and Addy call a truce. Addy and Sarah give puppet shows; Harriet collects the money from the sale of puppets and slide whistles. Then a tall girl they don't know steals their money box. Harriet finds her and blows thrice on the slide whistle. The girl knocks her down with her carpetbag. Addy grabs the bag and the girl runs off. Inside are three money boxes. They do the last show. One of the riddles is "answered" by an audience member—Sam! He's lost an arm, but he's home. A Peek Into the Past - 1864. Several pages on city life.

Porter, Connie

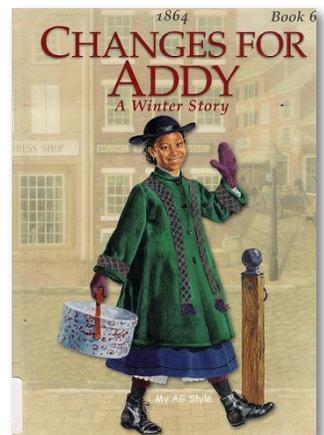
***Changes for Addy: A Winter Story (American Girl Series, Book 6)***

Middleton, WI: Pleasant Company Publications, 1993.

Historical Fiction. 52 pages.

AR Level 4.5 / 1.0 point

Recap says Addy and Momma had run away before the war's end. Poppa and Sam joined them in Philadelphia after the war, but baby Esther, Auntie Lula and "Uncle" Solomon have not reappeared. They have searched freedmen's camps. Momma and Mrs. Ford, now with a new sewing machine, make dresses. Poppa is saving money for a new search. Addy has learned to read so well that she will be reading the Emancipation Proclamation at the New Year's Eve celebration at church.



A letter arrives, replying to one of Addy's, saying that the three missing family members had been at a freedmen's camp. Addy and Sam (who lost an arm in the war) go into a hospital charity ward, but do not find them. Addy's friend Sarah has to quit school and work (laundry), so the two girls won't be able to become teachers together, as they had planned. After her deliveries for Mrs. Ford (seamstress), Addy again visits City Hospital to look for the family and visit Mr. Polk. He is better and claims that her visits have given him hope. On her way home, Addy finds Auntie Lula and Esther outside the Baptist church. Esther doesn't recognize her mother, and Solomon died and was buried at the last freedmen's camp. Next day after school, Addy goes to tell Sarah and also takes her a new slate, promising to keep her up-to-date on the lessons she's missing.

Auntie Lula, too weak to get out of bed, tells Addy that she, too, will die soon. But she, like Uncle Solomon, will die free. Addie is too sad to go to the Emancipation Celebration because Auntie Lula died two days before Christmas. Momma reminds Addy of the cowrie shell linking all generations to the ones from Africa. This continuity enables Addy to accept the deaths and go to the Celebration. She reads, the congregation rejoices, the family goes home together. A Peek Into the Past. 8 pages of information and photos on Reconstruction.

Ringgold, Faith

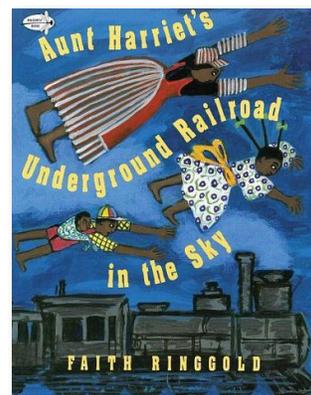
### ***Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky***

New York: Dragonfly Books / Crown Publishers, Inc., 1992.

Historical Fiction. (Illustrated by Faith Ringgold). 26 pages.

AR Level 3.5 / 1.0 point

Cassie and BeBe (of Tar Beach) are flying in the sky. They are invited on board a ramshackle train filled with people headed for Canada via Niagara Falls. BeBe jumps on and goes off; the train's lights flash "GO FREE NORTH OR DIE!" Cassie (the narrator) is distraught, but the conductor (Aunt Harriet) whispers reassuringly in her ear. She tells about the restrictions of slavery. Since Cassie "missed" the train, she has to follow, one stop behind.



First, she escapes from the plantation, listening to "Go Down, Moses." She sleeps in a farmer's attic and finds a note from BeBe. Aunt Harriet tells her to go on, to a blind agent, to a house with a quilt on the roof, to a cemetery. She finds a cap and a toy soldier of BeBe's, gets a fake freedom pass, comes to the free state of Pennsylvania, is hidden in the secret compartment of a wagon and in a coffin on a hearse. BeBe sends several notes. She flies over Niagara Falls and is reunited with BeBe, Baby Freedom and the train's passengers, now dressed in white. Feast and quilt celebrate Harriet's first flight to freedom - 100 years ago.

Historical notes on Tubman and map of UGRR routes. Children's activities inside front and back covers.

Robinet, Harriette Gillem

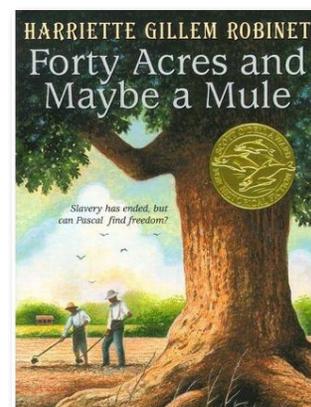
### ***Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule***

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers / Simon & Schuster, 1998.

Historical Fiction. 131 pages.

AR Level 4.3 / 5.0 points

Pascal, born a slave with a withered leg and hand, is retrieved after emancipation (which the master hadn't mentioned or acknowledged) by his older brother Gideon, who had escaped two years before and fought with the Union army. Nelly, another slave child with no family, goes with them as they search for a Freedman's Bureau where they should be given their forty acres and maybe a mule. On the way they acquire "Mr. Freedman," an emancipated carpenter, and meet the white Bibb family, also seeking a farm. Posing as a "family," they get their land and successfully plant a crop, but racism ("night riders," "work contracts") eventually rob them of their land. After moving the house to the Bibb farm and disguising it, as well as reburying a few gold coins and their "title" to the land under the Ghost Tree, they set off for the Georgia Sea Islands, where Negroes can farm. Gideon and Gladness, Mr. Freedman's "found" daughter, marry.



Historical elements: emancipation kept secret, anger of whites at being robbed of property; carpetbaggers and Freedman's Bureau tricks to keep Negroes as cheap workforce; family traveling in search of promised farm land / finding / then losing same; search for family members sold off; burning and lynching (at tasteful distance / not major characters). Bibliography.

Robinet, Harriette Gillem  
***Washington City is Burning***

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers / Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Historical Fiction. 143 pages.

AR Level 4.7 / 4.0 points

Virginia, a 12-year-old slave of James and Dolley Madison at their plantation at Montpelier, VA, is taken to Washington City by Tobias. She will be a slave at the White House where the Madisons live while he serves as President. On the trip, Tobias teaches Virginia to drive. He hints that she has a mission, points out Washington landmarks, but will not give her details. She acquires a kitten, which she names Liberty Kitty. Miss Dolley calls her "Virgie" because it is not proper to call a slave the same as their great state. An adult slave, Rosetta Bell, picks on Virginia from the moment of her arrival. Virginia is puzzled, her feelings hurt.

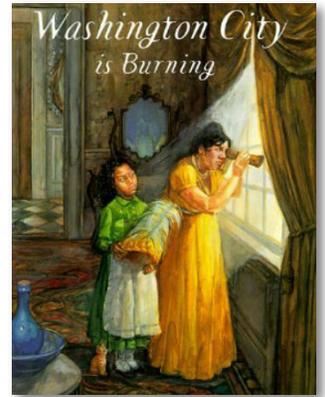
Interesting descriptions of life in the White House: sets of china, descriptions of rooms, foods served, Dolley Madison's wardrobe, her love party (for cabinet wives), Wednesday evening "drawing room" open houses, slaves from a variety of sources, water/food in Washington. On a Wednesday evening, Aunt Sally—who is Virginia's supervisor in the kitchen—send her to "chip ice." She is instructed by Tobias to take a carriage, drive to a certain location, take whoever might greet her there to wherever they say, and return the borrowed carriage. This she does, delivering several slaves to boats waiting to take them to ships which will smuggle them north to freedom. She has been chosen to do this because (a) she proved her bravery and loyalty by sitting casually on the lid of a boiling soup pot so as to keep overseer from discovering chickens stolen by starving slaves (butt and back of legs burned/scarred), and (b) adult slaves whipped or shot for this, but lenient toward a high-spirited child, if caught.

Virginia makes several more slave runs and, although warned to tell no one, whispers to Rosetta Bell in the hopes of winning her friendship. (Rosetta Bell's own daughter had Virginia's job, but was lazy and finally sold two years previously.) On her next run, she is told to go elsewhere with her passengers (who are ambushed, but saved), but another group, taken to the boats, is killed by slaves. (She later realizes that she has been a "traitor by prattle," that Rosetta Bell passed on her information, and does a little expiation ceremony with 12 black stones in a circle, some flowers and prayers.)

The War of 1812 is in full swing (date of story in August, 1814) . Political chatter overheard by Virginia indicates the British approach Washington. Slaves keep careful track, as they flee to the redcoats. Virginia dreams of freedom in the West Indies. British do come, slaves plan to flee in Madison's vehicles, but Miss Dolley orders them so she, plus important documents and other things, can be taken to VA. After her departure, slaves assemble abandoned vehicles and horses, dress tattered slaves in fine clothes left behind by the Madisons and their houseguests, and drive them out of the city, headed for freedom in Philadelphia. The British begin burning the city and Virginia goes back.

British burn selectively, save buildings that are women's homes, etc. White House is torched. Virginia comes upon redcoats and bluecoats, alive and dead, wandering around city. Dolley returns from VA, praises and acknowledges slaves who remained loyal (Virginia plans to help Aunt Sally and Tobias continue to help fugitives) and puts a flower in Virgie's hair.

Author's Notes: lists facts and separates from fiction. (UGRR described, but not mentioned as such).



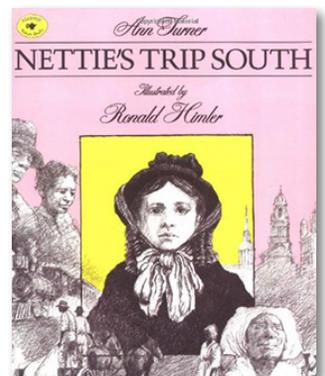
Turner, Ann  
***Nettie's Trip South***

New York: Aladdin Paperbacks / Simon & Schuster, 1987.

Historical Fiction. 27 pages.

AR Level 3.0 / 0.5 points

Nettie (age 10) writes Addie, telling of a trip south with her brother Lockwood, writing his first newspaper story. She had been told that a slave was 3/5 of a person; she wondered what pieces might be missing. She could not see anything missing.



She met a slave, Tabitha (no other name, like a household pet), a maid at the hotel in Richmond. On a buggy ride near a plantation, she asked an old slave man for a drink of water and saw their living conditions (“animals live better”). She went to a slave auction, saw two slave children, siblings, torn apart after being sold to different masters, and she threw up. She is haunted by bad dreams after realizing how her life would change if she slipped into black skin.

Walker, Sally B.

### ***Freedom Song: The Story of Henry “Box” Brown***

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2012.

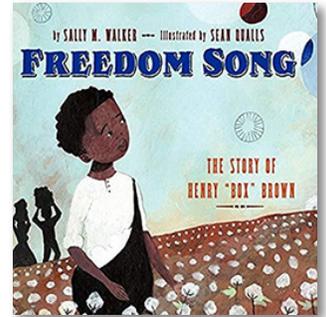
Biography. (Illustrated by Sean Qualls). 30 pages.

AR Level 3.9 / 0.5 points

Little Henry had songs to help make the events of his life go better. He also had a freedom song, which he kept to himself. When he was grown, Henry worked in the tobacco factory, sang a tobacco song, fell in love with Nancy, got married and started a family. Then the master sold Nancy and the children. Devastated, Henry planned his own freedom. He had friends make a wooden box, put him in it, and ship it to a freedom-loving man in the North. The trip was difficult, but he made it to freedom.

Author’s Note tells some of the background she discovered in her research.

Excerpts from a letter from James McKim, one of the men in the North who was part of the plot, asking those in the South not to tell of the escape so that others could use the same method. Link to document in the Collection of the New-York Historical Society.



Weiner, Eric

### ***Famous Lives: The Story of Frederick Douglass, Voice of Freedom***

Milwaukee: Gareth Stevens Publishing, 1996.

Biography. 104 pages.

AR Level 4.3 / 2.0 points

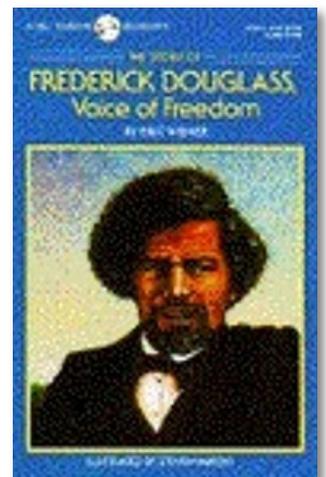
The Long Journey: Feb. 1818; Tuckahoe, Maryland. Mother Harriet Bailey sent to another plantation; Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey raised by Grandmamma; then she’s sold

The Life of a Slave: Lived with “Aunt Katy” the cook, who didn’t like him and tried to starve him; mother came during the night, threatened Aunt Katy; mother died. Slave songs melancholy not happy. Saw slave shot by overseer for not exiting pond. Fred being sent to the Aulds.

A New Home: Baltimore, Thomas and Sophia Auld, as slave for son Tommy. Mrs. Auld taught Fred reading on the sly; friends with poor white boys. Master dies, Fred recalled to Tuckahoe. Is given to Lucretia, who dies, then to mean Andrew, who banishes Grandmamma to a hut in the woods because she’s old/non-productive.

Magic Words: Fred secretly saves pennies, buys book *The Columbian Orator*, containing stories, poems and antislavery rhetoric. Learns about abolitionism. Learns to write alphabet while working in lumber yard.

The Camp Meeting: Thomas is cruel master. He “finds religion” at a camp meeting (where slaves have to watch from behind the stage), but still mistreated his slaves. Fred starts secret slave Sunday school / broken up by whites. Master Thomas now beating and starving Fred, who lets horse loose and gets food while “looking for it” at nearby plantation. Is sent to Edward Covey for a year “to be broken.”



The Fight: Field hand on Covey's farm. Sent with unruly oxen to get wood, oxen run and nearly kill Fred. Covey cuts stick and beats / Fred won't remove clothes. Fred goes back to Thomas, but is told to return to Covey. (Fred is still just a teenager). Slave Sandy and wife feed and shelter him. Returns, but it's Sunday - day of rest. Monday, Covey plans to shackle and beat Fred; Fred resists; two-hour stand-off / Fred "wins" and is not beaten.

The Escape: Covey never tells, as his slave-breaking business would be ruined. Fred starts secret school / Sandy a pupil. They plan escape; Fred has written passes. Plot is betrayed; Fred burns his passes, others swallow theirs. Fred sent back to Hugh in Baltimore.

Free At Last!: Fred beaten by white carpenter co-workers. Meets free servant Anna Murray; plans marriage. Uses black sailor's papers to escape via train to NYC. Sends for Anna, they marry, go farther north to New Bedford, Mass., to seek shipyard work as a caulker.

A New Life: Safer with different name, takes Douglass from Scott's Lady of the Lake. Reads Garrison's Liberator, attends antislavery meetings, is handyman in New Bedford. Two children born - Rosetta, 6/24/1839, and Lewis Henry, 10/2/1840. Fred still has no birthday. Goes to antislavery, is asked to speak by Wm. Coffin, does, electrifies crowd, is asked to become paid speaker. Dangerous / still a runaway. Writes Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave. Book popular, but his "cover" is blown.

"Notice! Frederick Douglass Will Lecture!": Sits in "white" car on trains; speaks at over 100 meetings. Flees to England / is popular there. Ellen and Anna Richardson buy his freedom (150£/\$700) and he returns after two years. Moves to Rochester, publishes The North Star, conductor/stationmaster on UGRR, integrates Rochester schools.

Civil War: In 1852, gives "This Fourth of July is yours, not mine" speech. John Brown/Harper's Ferry (1859). Lincoln wins election, southern states secede, fire on Union troops at Fort Sumter. Douglass encourages blacks to fight in Union army - incl. his three sons—Charles, Lewis, Frederick. Black prisoners mistreated—killed or sold into slavery. North did not object. Douglass goes to see Lincoln, who listens. Despite discrimination in North, Lincoln will work for equal pay for all soldiers. Says he needs hard evidence to protest Southern treatment of black Union prisoners. Will work to promote worthy black soldiers to officer rankings. Sept. 22, 1862, Emancipation Proclamation issued.

Come At Once: Lincoln sends for Douglass, asks advice on how to get slaves to run and join Union army. Fred will help get out the word in the South. After second inaugural address, Fred goes to White House. Guards try to exclude, but Lincoln personally invites in and asks opinion of speech (coolly received by crowd); says he values Fred's opinion, Fred says it was "a sacred effort." Lincoln shot one month later.

What Next?: Works to get blacks right to vote. Andrew Johnson won't listen, gives Douglass and group a prepared response, reveals plan to send blacks back to Africa. Douglass is Rochester's elected delegate to convention in Philadelphia to plan for reconstruction. As delegates (white) march to meeting, fear of mob. NY delegate will march with Douglass. Crowds cheer Douglass. Runs Freedmen's Savings Bank; U.S. representative to Santo Domingo; U.S. Marshall for Washington, D.C. Visits Thomas Ault on deathbed. Captain Ault / "Marshall Douglass" "Would have done same thing" - Ault. Spoke for Women's suffrage. Gave speech on day of death; hero's funeral; buried in Rochester.

Timeline of life, books and videos for further study.

Winter, Jeanette

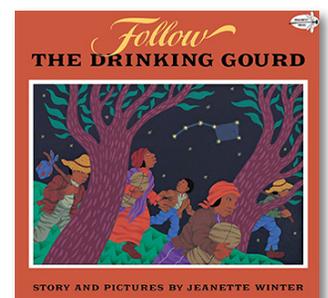
### ***Follow the Drinking Gourd***

New York: The Trumpet Club, 1988.

Historical Fiction. Picture Book. 48 pages.

AR Level 4.3 / 0.5 points

Prefatory note about UGRR, Peg Leg Joe and the meaning of the song, "Follow the Drinking Gourd". Melody and text for song at end of book.



Peg Leg Joe comes to plantations as a handyman. He then tells slaves about escaping and teaches them the song, which is full of traveling directions. With separation by sale imminent, a three-generation slave family runs. They follow Joe's instructions and evade recapture.

Joe is waiting at the Ohio River, where he rows them across and connects them with the UGRR network. They are conducted / sent from safe house to safe house until they are taken by steamship to freedom in Canada.

**Wisler, G. Clifton**  
***Caleb's Choice***

New York: Lodestar Books, 1996.

Historical Fiction. 150 pages.

AR Level 4.4 / 5.0 points

Caleb Dulaney's life gets turned around (1858) when his father's debts force the sale of their home in Houston, Texas, and he is withdrawal from Mr. Francis Ashbury's Boys' Academy. He's been teaching Henry, a neighbor's slave, to read and cipher, but this all ends when everything except a few clothes and books are confiscated to go toward the debts and the family disbursts. Papa goes to Galveston to earn money and reunite the family.

Caleb and Mama go to Great Aunt Alma's in Columbia (southern Texas). Great Aunt Alma is extremely proud of her (and Mama's) Fonteyne heritage and talks down Papa and his family. Caleb is virtually imprisoned in an attic room and taunted by his snooty and unchecked cousin Pierre, who finally burns old rags outside Caleb's door so everyone will think Caleb set his room on fire. Caleb is shipped off to his father's family, Granny Dulaney, who runs an inn outside of Dallas. On the trip there, Caleb is treated kindly, fed and housed by friendly travel-mates, who happen to know and respect his grandmother. Caleb dreams (nightmare) of being sold at auction after happening upon his first slave auction.

Arriving at the inn, Caleb meets his grandmother, his cousin Edith, and a boy living there named Micah. Micah is very superstitious, steers Caleb to staying in the barn loft with him. Caleb has chores, learns about the elusive Wood Thing which leaves carved wooden items in trade for items it has taken, and settles into rural pleasures (fishing, skinny dipping, hunting).

The Fitch brothers, Ulysses and Romulus, plus their dog Satan are constantly popping up looking for runaway slaves who are headed toward Kansas or to the west. They ship back a couple. Nobody helps them, but abolitionist sentiments are kept quiet. Edith does show Caleb Granny's Bible with, "You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped his master to you" in Deuteronomy underlined.

Caleb shares David Copperfield with book-starved Edith, who becomes an ally. Fitch brothers have whipped two runaways they captured; Polk Harrison (Granny's hand) and Dulaneys are kind to captives; Caleb again haunted by the experience. Stories about old slave plots and Comanche uprisings are told.

Micah and Caleb are trying to get horses / wagon across a rain-swollen river. Caleb swept away and nearly drowned. Comes to in cave hideaway of Ajax, who has rescued him and nurses him to health. Townsfolk look near cave for missing Caleb, who eventually reappears—battered from river experience and with a secret debt to Ajax for his life. (Ajax = Wood Thing) Sheriff et al. suspicious, but Caleb sticks to his story (without mentioning Ajax).

Polk is branded on the hand with "SS" (slave stealer) by the Fitches. Can't make next slave delivery (he's a conductor on the UGRR) of Thomas and Caesar, whom Granny and Edith have been hiding in a house in the woods (they are conductors). Caleb sees house, guesses secret, decides to pay debt to Ajax by driving Polk's wagon to next stop. Let patrollers / Fitches search wagon on road, then on-load slaves. Patrollers near destination, so same technique is used - Micah takes wagon through town, Caleb and slaves skirt town via woods, are shot at but deliver slaves. On return trip, Micah and Caleb captured by angry Fitches. Caleb to be branded on cheek, but saved again by Ajax. Now been saved two times, but also "gave back" two slaves' lives, so debt even. End-of-story musings on the law and what's "right."

Author's Note: separates fact, fiction.

