



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Frederick Douglass

(1818-1895)

Lectured in Ithaca and surrounding areas multiple times during his life.

Learning about Fredrick Douglas, means learning about the relationship between literacy and liberation.

Abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass was born into slavery sometime around 1818 in Talbot County, Maryland. He became one of the most famous intellectuals of his time, advising presidents and lecturing to thousands on a range of causes, including women's rights and Irish home rule.

Among Douglass' writings are several autobiographies eloquently describing his experiences in slavery and his life after the Civil War, including the well-known work Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave.

Defying a ban on teaching slaves to read and write, Baltimore slaveholder Hugh Auld's wife Sophia taught Douglass the alphabet when he was around 12. When Auld forbade his wife to offer more lessons, Douglass continued to learn from white children and others in the neighborhood.

Douglass married Anna Murray, a free black woman, on September 15, 1838. Douglass had fallen in love with Murray, who assisted him in his final attempt to escape slavery in Baltimore.

Following the publication of his first autobiography in 1845, Douglass traveled overseas to evade recapture. He set sail for Liverpool on August 16, 1845, and eventually arrived in Ireland as the Potato Famine was beginning. He remained in Ireland and Britain for two years, speaking to large crowds on the evils of slavery. During this time, Douglass' British supporters gathered funds to purchase his legal freedom. In 1847, the famed writer and orator returned to the United States a free man.

QUOTES

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters... Power concedes nothing without a demand."

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

"I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence."

"The white man's happiness cannot be purchased by the black man's misery."

Artwork: Maryam Adib @Smarf.Art
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