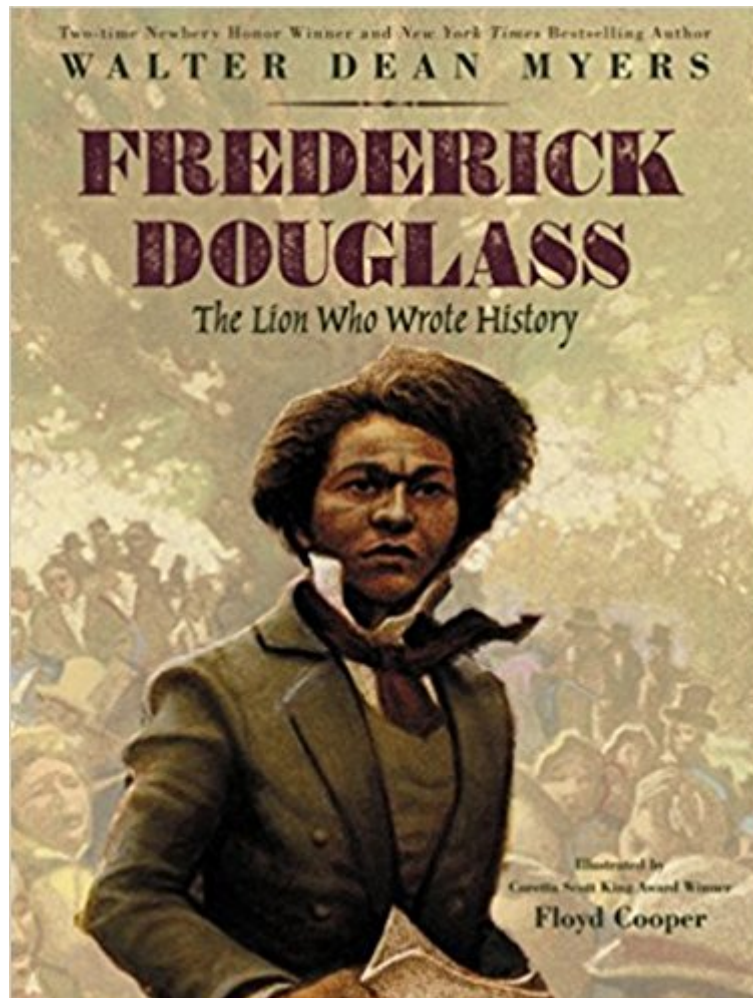




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Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History



Synopsis

In this picture book biography, the late New York Times bestselling author Walter Dean Myers and acclaimed artist Floyd Cooper take readers on an inspiring journey through the life of Frederick Douglass. Frederick Douglass was a self-educated slave in the South who grew up to become an icon. He was a leader of the abolitionist movement, a celebrated writer, an esteemed speaker, and a social reformer, proving that, as he said, “Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” The story of one of America’s most revered figures is brought to life by the text of award-winning author Walter Dean Myers and the sweeping, lush illustrations of artist Floyd Cooper.

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins (January 24, 2017)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #210,809 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Era #104 in Books > Children’s Books > Biographies > Social Activists #367 in Books > Children’s Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-5 • This picture book biography draws on Frederick Douglass’s autobiographies to examine his motivations and his lasting impact on U.S. history. Using erasers and oil on board, Cooper conveys Douglass’s determination, portraying him as strong and serious even as a child. The artwork depicts Douglass’s growing awareness that a life outside of slavery might be possible. The events covered are well chosen to give young readers insight into the essence of his life and accomplishments. In a child-appropriate manner, the text describes beatings, but the illustrations do not show scars. When Douglass was 16, his owner realized that the teen’s

independent spirit might be problematic. The owner sent Douglass to another man, Edward Covey, whose mistreatment of slaves often caused them to back down. In a dramatic spread, Douglass is shown standing over Covey as the older man crouches on the ground, Douglass clearly the victor in their confrontation: an image that emphasizes the spirit that drove him to stand up for himself and other African Americans through the abolitionist movement. A time line provides context and further details about Douglass's life. VERDICT Although this title is similar in scope to Doreen Rappaport's *Frederick's Journey*, the two books complement each other. Recommended for collections looking to further explore Douglass's legacy. —Lucinda Snyder Whitehurst, St. Christopher's School, Richmond, VA

—“Focused, informative writing and strong, effective illustrations combine to make this the go-to Frederick Douglass biography for younger students. (Booklist (starred review)) —“Young readers will certainly come away with an understanding of how one person, in spite of overwhelming odds, can make a difference. Cooper's signature style brilliantly sings in clear and resounding volumes across every page....A posthumous title of distinction from [Myers]. (Kirkus Reviews) —“This picture book biography draws on Frederick Douglass's autobiographies to examine his motivations and his lasting impact on U.S. history....The events covered are well chosen to give young readers insight into the essence of his life and accomplishments. Recommended for collections looking to further explore Douglass's legacy. (School Library Journal (starred review)) —“[A] stirring testament to the power of words and daring action to create change. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) —“Douglass's life story has a magisterial glow in this posthumous work from the esteemed Myers....Cooper's realistic, slightly smudged art feels equally consequential, balancing dignity and emotion. (New York Times Book Review)

Great way for the little one's to learn about history.

The late Walter Dean Myers shows readers the upbringing of American hero, Frederick Douglass. Douglass was born a slave in Maryland. He was first taught about reading by the mistress of the house, but she soon stopped teaching him. Frederick grew up helping to care for the family who owned him and learned from the children of the family how to speak clearly. He also learned the differences between his life as a slave and their plans for happy futures. So Douglass taught himself to read. He was hired out to work in the shipyards where he met sailors who were free black men.

He fell in love with a free woman and made his way North to freedom, posing as a sailor. Once free in the North, he started to speak out against slavery, becoming the legendary orator he is famous for being. Myers draws a complete picture of Douglass here. He shows readers the differences between slavery and freedom with a clarity that is vastly helpful. He doesn't linger on the violence of slavery but it is also not lessened or ignored. He strikes just the right balance for a young audience. As the book continues, one sees Douglass grow up, learn many things and then not only head to freedom himself but argue that slavery should be abolished. There is real courage on these pages, risks taken for a real life, and an understanding that Douglass himself was an incredible individual. The illustrations by award-winning Cooper are exceptional. Done with erasers and oils on board, they have a beautiful texture to them, almost hazy with the historical significance of what they are depicting. There are images of love, others of violence, others of freedom newly found. As Douglass grows up on the pages he becomes more and more the icon visually as well. Strong and important, this picture book biography is inspiring. Appropriate for ages 7-9.

I recently read this with my almost 7 yr old, and it was a great introduction to start a conversation on slavery. Personally, I would not read it to a child much younger. The illustrations are beautiful and I really enjoyed reading it with my son.

Very pleased with this book that is in great condition. Thanks!

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