FREDERICK DOUGLASS lived from 1818-1895. He was born into slavery in Maryland, and escaped after his third try. He became one of the most active, and certainly well-known abolitionists. The 14th and 15th amendments have a lot to do with his activism. Douglass was a writer and also a supporter of women’s rights. His first book, THE NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AN AMERICAN SLAVE, was published in 1845. He also wrote for abolitionist newspapers and created his own newspaper, THE NORTH STAR (which later became the FREDERICK DOUGLASS PAPER). In addition to his writing, Douglass served in government posts, e.g., U. S. Marshal for the District of Columbia and U. S. Minister Resident and Consul General to the Republic of Haiti.

BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS
FREDERICK DOUGLASS: THE LION WHO WROTE HISTORY. Walter Dean Myers (author), Floyd Cooper (illustrator). Quill Tree Books. 2021 (4-8 years) This biography examines Douglass’s motivation as well as his impact on U.S. history.

VOICE OF FREEDOM: A STORY ABOUT FREDERICK DOUGLASS. Maryann N. Weidt (author), Jeni Reeves (illustrator) Lerner Classroom. 2001.(9-13 years) This history book is very readable and covers both the issues Douglass had to deal with during his life, and information about his family.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS: PROPHET OF FREEDOM. David W. Blight. Simon and Schuster. 2020. (older youth and adults) This biography utilizes papers that had not been available before this time. It gives a complete and compelling picture of Douglass in terms of his personal life and his complete dedication to the eradication of slavery and and the absolute need for civil rights for all people.

MY BONDAGE AND MY FREEDOM. Frederick Douglass.(author) Frederick Smith (editor). Penguin Classics. 2003 (older youth and adults). This is Douglass’s second autobiography, written 10 years after his legal emancipation in 1846. He had broken with William Llyod Garrison at this point, but is more committed to the fight for equal rights for all.

FILMS/VIDEOS FOR ALL
FREDERICK DOUGLAS: IN FIVE SPEECHES. 2022. HBO MAX. This 58 minute documentary brings to life Douglass’s words about racial injustice.
BECOMING FREDERICK DOUGLASS: EXTENDED TRAILER. 2022. PBS. This video examines Douglass’s role in the whole anti-slavery movement.

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