

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Slavery	5
To Be A Slave by Julius Lester (<i>Scholastic, 1968</i>)	
(<i>Available from Scholastic, CAN & UK; Ashton Scholastic, AUS</i>)	6
Book Summary—Sample Plan—Overview of Activities—Slavery Journals—Historical Research— Vocabulary Scramble—The Auction Block Discussion—Describe the Plantation—Resistance to Slavery—The Slaves’ Social Life—Anti-Slavery Speech	
Letters from a Slave Girl—The Story of Harriet Jacobs by Mary E. Lyons (<i>Atheneum, 1992</i>)	
(<i>Available from Distican, CAN; Simon & Schuster, UK; Pretice Hall, AUS</i>)	17
Summary—Sample Plan—Overview of Activities—Parent Letter—Making Crackers— Comprehension Questions—Character Traits—Your Life—Similes and Metaphors—Interview for a Family Tree—Autobiography	
Across the Curriculum	
Language Arts	28
Further Reading Selections—Br’er Rabbit Builds a Home—Famous Quotations—The Ballad of the Underground Railroad—Newspaper Article—The Underground Railroad—Acrostic Poem	
Social Studies	41
Slavery from the Beginning—Origins of Slavery Game—Dred Scott—Slavery Among the Cherokee Tribe—The Emancipation Proclamation—Frederick Douglass—Debate— Amistad—Booker T. Washington—Who Was It?—Learning a Lesson	
Science	56
Build a Machine—Grow Your Own Cotton	
Math	58
Slave Quarters—Underground Railroad—Slavery Information	
Drama	65
A Riddle for Freedom	
Art	67
Quilts—Calabash—Who Owns. . . ?	
Music	70
Juba This and Juba That—Chinene Nye?	
P.E.	72
The Cat and the Rat—Bivoe Ebuma—My Little Bird	
Culminating Activities	74
Concluding the Unit on Slavery—Ruby Bridges—Slavery Simulation—Juneteenth	
Bibliography	78
Answer Key	80

Anti-Slavery Speech

Directions: Using the speech format below, choose one of the two topics and write a persuasive speech.

Elements of a Speech

Introduction: A good introduction sets the direction of your speech. It needs to get the attention of your audience, introduce your topic, state your central idea or purpose, briefly identify the main points, and make your audience anxious to hear what you have to say about that topic. Some attention getting ideas are: telling your audience an amazing fact; telling a funny story; giving a short demonstration or using a visual aid; asking a series of questions or giving a short history of the topic; and giving a strong statement about why the topic is important to you and your audience.

Body: The body of a speech carries the main arguments or points of the topic. Organization of the body is very important. You can organize in order of importance, least to greatest or greatest to least. You can organize in the order of which events take place. Another way to organize is in a problem/solution format in which you describe the problem and then present a solution to solve it.

Conclusion: The conclusion helps your audience understand what they have heard, why it's important, and what they should do about it. You may want to restate your main idea and use an attention-getting device like in the introduction.

Topic #1 — Anti-Slavery Speech

Toward the end of the Civil War, many slaves were not sure if their freedom would be won. Pretend you are a slave and write a persuasive speech that justifies the freedom of the slaves.

Introduction: Use background information of slavery or your background as a slave.

Body: Tell about slavery as you know it. Describe the living conditions of slaves, the working conditions of slaves, their deaths, and their lack of social freedoms. Describe anything of the slaves' situation that would persuade freedom.

Conclusion: Discuss the benefits of freedom and what slaves will be able to contribute to society as free individuals.

Topic #2 — Pro-Slavery Speech

Many Southerners and slave owners were in favor of the institution of slavery. The idea that slavery might be abolished was very frightening to the Southerners. Write a speech that is persuasive in justifying slavery.

Introduction: Use background information from the perspective of master who owns slaves.

Body: State the advantages of slavery to the economy of the South. List the conditions that slaves live under on your plantation. Describe your religion and that, according to it, slaves are in their appropriate place in society.

Conclusion: Discuss the benefits that the slaves and the white southern economy will experience because of slavery.

Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was born in 1818, a slave in Maryland. He escaped from slavery in 1838. He ran first to New York and later moved to Massachusetts. Douglass did not have any formal education. He taught himself how to read and write. He was a powerful speaker, and in 1841, he spoke at a meeting sponsored by the abolitionists. His looks and ability to speak, held his audiences' attention incredibly well. Douglass was soon a famous speaker in the anti-slavery movement. In 1845, he spoke in England to a sympathetic audience in which he enlisted their support for the abolition of slavery in America. Many did not believe that he was a former slave because of his tremendous speaking abilities.



Frederick Douglass

Upon his return from England, he became the leading African-American spokesperson in the anti-slavery movement. He began working for the Underground Railroad, assisting many slaves to escape to the North and then to Canada. In order to have his voice heard by more people, he published the *North Star*. It soon became the most influential paper in the African-American community. Douglass also helped recruit African-American men to fight in the Civil War. He served his country as Secretary of the Santo Domingo Commission, Marshal and Recorder for the Deeds of the District of Columbia, and Minister of the United States of America in Haiti. He also wrote three autobiographies during his life.

Discussion Questions:

- Was Frederick Douglass a typical slave? Did he accomplish what most slaves accomplished in their lifetimes?
- What do you think was his greatest accomplishment? Why?
- If you were a slave during Frederick Douglass's time, would you consider him to be a hero?
- Do you think there were many black heroes with whom the slaves could aspire to be like?
- Why do you think Frederick Douglass recruited African-American men to fight in the Civil War?
- If you were a black man during the Civil War and you were able, would you have fought? Why or why not?
- Name some of the ways in which Frederick Douglass was able to influence others regarding their views of slavery.
- Do you think it was common for an escaped slave to be able to read, write, and be an excellent speaker?

Enrichment: Look up one or all of Frederick Douglass's autobiographies in the library and find out more about his fascinating life.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave written by himself (Bedford Books, 1993)

My Bondage and My Freedom (Library of America, 1996) Life and Times of Frederick Douglass