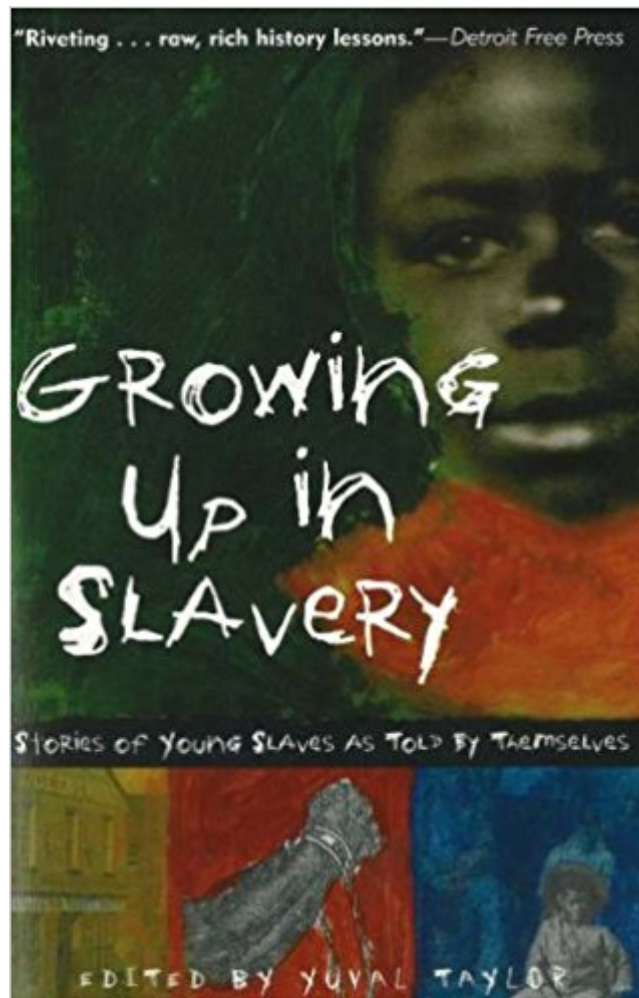




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Growing Up In Slavery: Stories Of Young Slaves As Told By Themselves



Synopsis

Ten slaves—all under the age of 19—tell stories of enslavement, brutality, and dreams of freedom in this collection culled from full-length autobiographies. These accounts, carefully selected to help teenagers relate to the horrific experiences of slaves their own age living in the not-so-distant past, include stories of young slaves torn from their mothers and families, suffering from starvation, and being whipped and tortured. But these are not all tales of deprivation and violence; teenagers will relate to accounts of slaves challenging authority, playing games, telling jokes, and falling in love. These stories cover the range of the slave experience, from the passage in slave ships across the Atlantic and daily life as a slave both on large plantations and in small-city dwellings; to escaping slavery and fighting in the Civil War. The writings of Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass, William Wells Brown, Harriet Jacobs, Elizabeth Keckley, and other lesser-known slaves are included.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Chicago Review Press (February 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1556526350

ISBN-13: 978-1556526350

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,365,078 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Period #140 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States > 19th Century #198 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Cultural Heritage

Customer Reviews

Adult/High School-Taylor introduces these accounts with a discussion of the slave narrative as a literary genre, followed by a brief history of slavery in the United States. The 10 excerpts are arranged chronologically by original publication date and span the years between 1745 and the 1860s. Each narrative is preceded by brief biographical notes about its author and concludes with an account of the remainder of the person's life. These articulate, heartbreaking stories show slavery's effect on its youngest victims, children subjected to extraordinary toil and punishment from

their earliest years. The circumstances and personalities of the authors differed significantly. One was captured in Africa and suffered the horrors of transport in a slave ship. Some toiled on large plantations, others on small farms or in city houses. Adolescent girls suffered from the attentions of predatory masters and the vengeance of jealous mistresses. Surviving brutality, fear, and deprivation, the children prevailed through courage, resolution, and wisdom. The risks taken to learn to read or to visit a beloved relative sold to a new master were incredible. Ten woodcut illustrations are included.-Kathy Tewell, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 9-12. Ten African Americans--among them Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, as well as less well-known individuals--tell what it was like to be a child and teenager under slavery. Taylor, who leads off with an excellent historical overview, has taken the long, stirring stories from his two-volume adult anthology *I Was Born a Slave* (1999), and he expands each smoothly and unobtrusively edited account with clear introductory notes and concluding commentary. The writers recall misery, cruelty, and horrific violence, but just as strong are their memories of courageous rebellion, both secret and open, including their shared triumph: once forbidden to read and write, they grew up to publish their life stories. The type is small, and the narratives are dense, but powerful full-page woodcuts help focus the drama. Invaluable for students in search of primary-source material, and many selections will make riveting read-alouds. A bibliography is appended. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

This book compiles excerpts from 10 different autobiographical narratives of former slaves. I appreciated that the focus was not on the sadistic atrocities that humans have afflicted on their fellow man (as true as those accounts are), but instead on the indomitable free-soul of a man, a woman, a child. Too, as a teacher and parent, I found the value these narrators placed on education (plain reading and writing) to be refreshing.

Great book for my son

As far as customer service is concerned, it was excellent. I received the book just a few days after having ordered it and it was in very good condition. The contents of the book was not what I expected. The author seemed to generalize the subject matter without going into great detail, so it was ok.

My purchased was received before estimated date. An excellent book to have for children and adults.

I always get everything I need from -Price is lowest of anyone, products are the very best!!

Other than that (the title of the review), I can't comment much because I bought this book as a gift for a program for underprivileged kids. I didn't read it and was unable to get feedback.

"Growing Up In Slavery", Yuval Taylor, is an overwhelming and touching novel about ten young slaves who tell their stories growing up into slavery. These are short excerpts from these ten full autobiographies. They talk about all the struggles and tribulations that they had been through, Some of those struggles were being starved, tortured, violence, and being deprived. Some of the slaves that tell their accounts in the novel are Olaudah Equiano, William Wells Brown, Harriet Jacobs, and even Fredrick Douglas. As one, they come together to make this novel a great one. There are a couple of things in particular that I like about the novel. For instance, I like how vivid and clear the descriptions are for their stories. They used a great amount of imagery to help the reader to visualize how bad their experiences were. There were also sketched drawings of situations when they were being beat and whipped by their masters. This also helped me understand how hard their lives were as slaves. Another thing that I liked about the novel was that they didn't sugar-coat anything. They told everything how it actually was, which will make the reader appreciate and value the freedom they have and realize how lucky they are. Overall, "Growing Up In Slavery" is a book that will make readers think and truly appreciate life. Even though "Growing Up In Slavery" is a hard book to read because of the intense description of the brutality that slaves face, I strongly recommend this book to African Americans. The imagery helped me visualize their situations and I think anyone who enjoys novels about slavery would strongly agree.

The narratives in this book are probably compelling and heart wrenching, however it took many chapters of mostly explaining what slavery is , and the final insult is the format the writing took on; words chopped in halves and thirds and then ran down the page in a vertical coloum as narrow as 1-2" , like a word puzzle you never wanted.

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