



## Frederick Douglass

*By William S. McFeely*

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This biography of Frederick Douglass covers the life of an orator, abolitionist and writer. Douglass was one of the most powerful voices for freedom in the United States and his autobiographies ("Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass") have shaped the American view of slavery. In this biography, McFeely presents Douglass as a central figure of his time, who identified slavery as the cause of the Civil War. He also examines fully the complex relationship Douglass maintained with his illiterate wife, his children who were for ever in awe of their famous father and well-educated women friends.

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## **Frederick Douglass By William S. McFeely Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

A runaway slave at 20, Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) won worldwide renown as a spokesman for the abolitionist cause, edited an influential antislavery weekly and helped organize black regiments during the Civil War. After the Emancipation Proclamation he aggressively championed full citizenship for his fellow black Americans. In this unhurried and beautifully crafted biography, the author presents the known facts of Douglass's stormy life and reveals the man behind the icon: his complex and ambiguous friendships with William Lloyd Garrison, John Brown and other figures of the day; his gossip-stirring relationships with several dynamic white women; his controversial tenure as U.S. minister to Haiti near the end of his life. McFeely analyzes Douglass's autobiographical writings, probing insightfully into the complicated psyche of this heroic figure. The biography is a major work of scholarship that brings into vivid focus the nature of slave culture and racial prejudice in 19th-century America. McFeely, a history professor at the University of Georgia, won a Pulitzer Prize for *Grant: A Biography*. Photos. BOMC, History Book Club and QPB selections.

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#### From School Library Journal

YA-- This excellent biography fluently tells the life story of Douglass, one of the 19th century's most famous writers and speakers on abolitionist and human rights causes. It traces his life from his birth as a slave in Maryland, through his self-education, escape to freedom, and subsequent lionization as a renowned orator in England and the United States. Readers familiar with his life will be grateful for the little-known information about his family, and a general audience will enjoy the well-rounded, literate stories of Douglass's contemporaries. Fascinating, too, are accounts of the era's politics, such as the racist views held by some abolitionist leaders and the ways in which many policies made in post-Civil War times have worked to the detriment of today's civil rights movement. The chapter on Frederick Douglass and John Brown is, in itself, interesting enough to commend this powerful biography. The seldom-seen photographs, the careful chapter notes, documentation, and acknowledgements will encourage YAs to become not only dedicated Douglass historians but also avid William McFeely fans.

- *Isabelle Bligh, Edison High School, Alexandria,*

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#### Review

“A masterpiece....[W]ill rightfully assume its place as the standard biography of a truly great figure in the nation’s past.” (New York Newsday)

“Absolutely nonpareil. . . . This biography?tender and critical, respectful yet observant?presents a character of Frederick Douglass that is more thoroughly human than seemed possible in careful scholarship.” (Nell Irvin Painter - Boston Globe)

“Stunning. . . . This illuminating portrait dispenses with the myths.” (Financial Times)

“Compelling. . . . Suggests that the Age of Douglass was this nation’s greatest epoch. . . . What a time. What a book.” (Ishmael Reed - Los Angeles Times)

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **William Fugate:**

Book is actually written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can know everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading talent was fluently. A e-book Frederick Douglass will make you to be smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think that open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or acceptable book with you?

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#### **James Ensor:**

The book Frederick Douglass has a lot info on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was published by the very famous author. The author makes some research prior to write this book. That book very easy to read you can get the point easily after perusing this book.

#### **Morgan Johnson:**

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