



THE OHIO DIGITAL
LIBRARY

Juneteenth

Reading List for
Adults, Teens, and Children

Introduction

On June 19, 1865, two thousand Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas. At multiple locations throughout the city, they proclaimed that the enslaved people of Texas were free—nearly two-and-a-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. In the years that followed, annual celebrations called Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, and eventually Juneteenth (a combination of “June” and “nineteenth”) spread throughout the U.S. In 2021, Juneteenth (officially called “Juneteenth National Independence Day”) became a federal holiday.

The titles on the following pages tell the story of Juneteenth, Emancipation, and Reconstruction after the Civil War. The books are grouped into three age categories: Adult, Teen/Middle Grade, and Picture Books. Titles are listed alphabetically in each section; books with an Ohio connection, such as an Ohio author or setting, are indicated by a small Ohio flag.

Click on a cover to find that book in the Ohio Digital Library; many titles are available in both ebook and audio formats. Some books on this list have links to an additional resource, such as a discussion guide or author interview. (These links may lead to websites that are not controlled by the State Library of Ohio.) Note that some titles, especially those for older readers, may include violence or other difficult content.

Finally, think and talk about what you’ve read. The questions below can provide a starting point.

Discussion/Reflection Questions

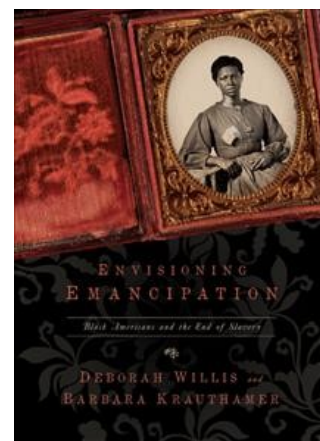
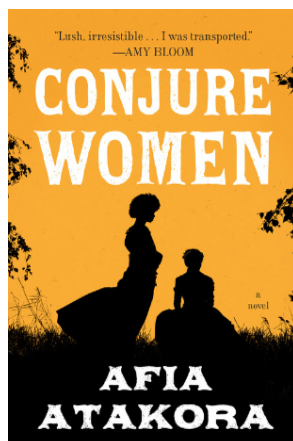
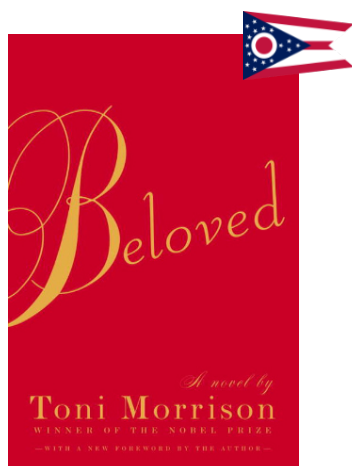
For young children:

- What did you like most about the book? What did you like least?
- Which character would you most like to be friends with? Why?
- How did the main character feel in this story? How would you feel if you were in their place?
- Talk about something you learned from reading this book.

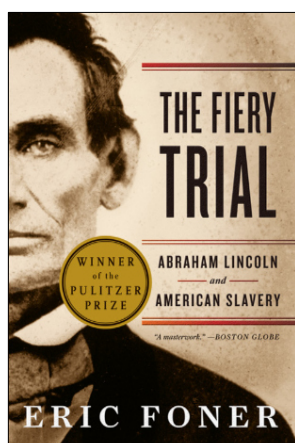
For older children, teens, and adults:

- Is there a person or situation in the book that you especially identified with? Why?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book—what message were they trying to convey? Did they succeed? Why or why not?
- Think of a favorite quote or passage from the book. Why did it resonate with you?
- If you could meet the author, what questions would you ask them?
- How did this book make you feel? Why?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?
- What questions do you have after reading this book? How could you find answers?

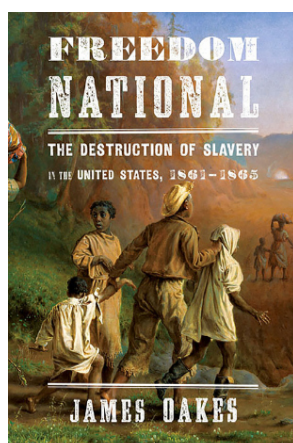
Adult



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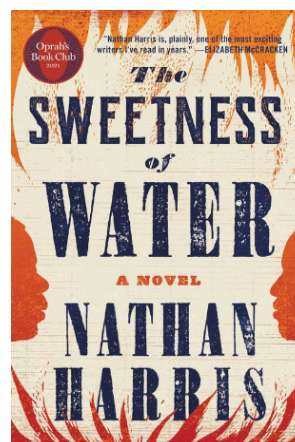
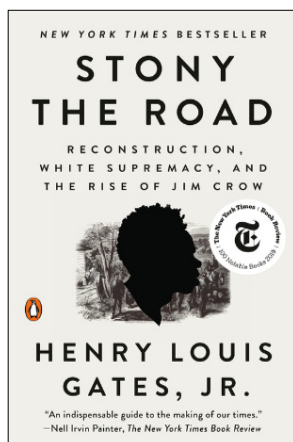
[Author Interview](#)



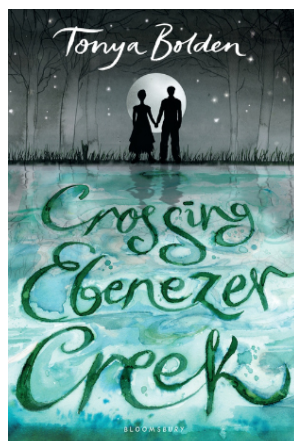
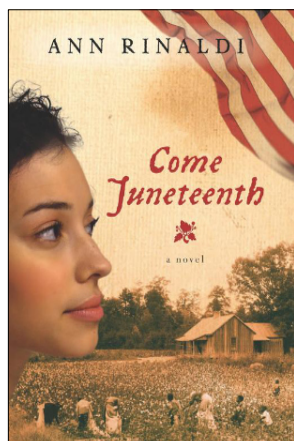
[WPA Slave Narratives](#)



[Author Interview](#)



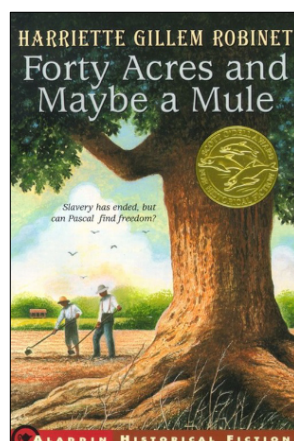
Teen & Middle Grade



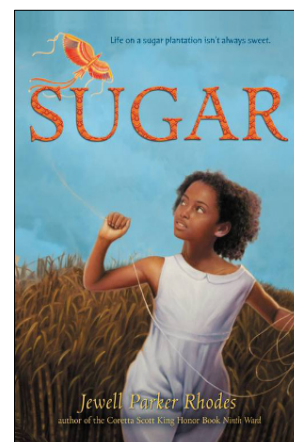
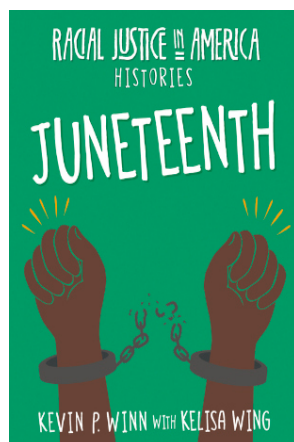
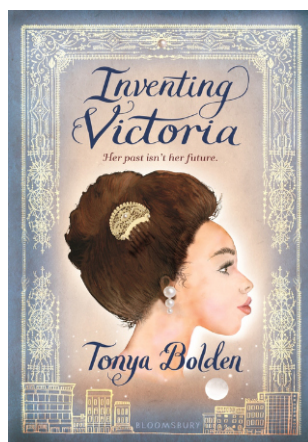
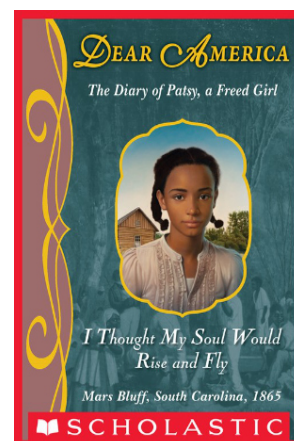
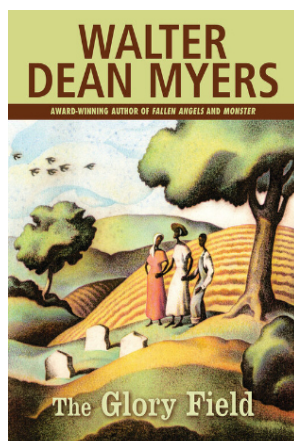
Sherman's Special
Field Orders No. 15



Discussion Guide

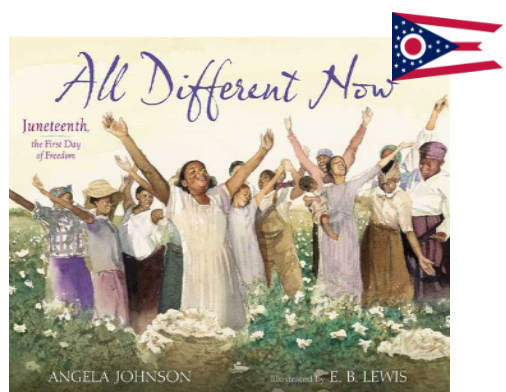


Discussion Guide

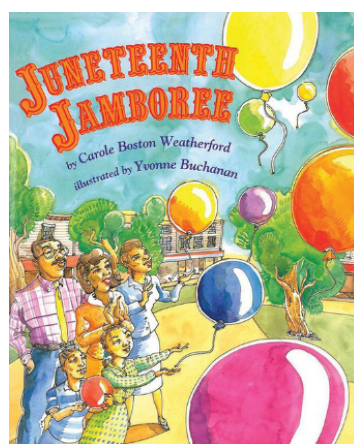
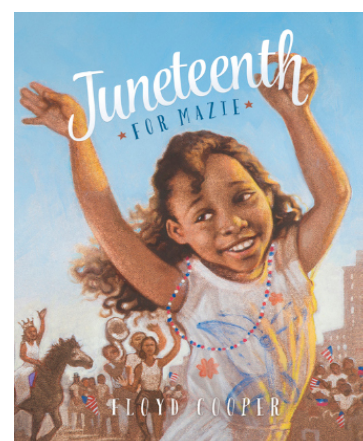
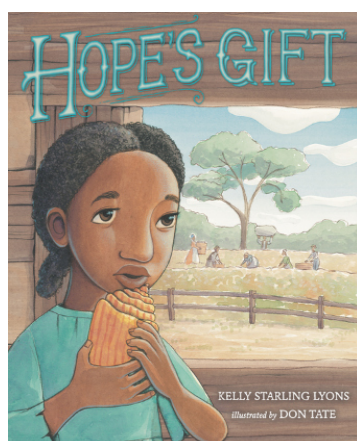
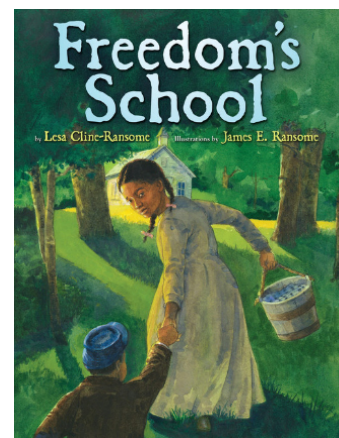
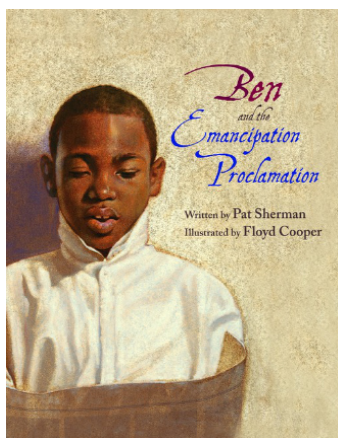


Discussion Guide

Picture Books



Discussion Guide



Discussion Guide



Discussion Guide

