

**0. Frederick Douglass: From Slave to Leader - Story Preface**

1. A CHILD SLAVE
2. GET EDUCATED!!
3. ESCAPE!
4. ANNA MURRAY DOUGLASS
5. THE ABOLITIONISTS
6. ABOLITIONIST LITERATURE
7. FAME
8. DOUGLASS AT HOME
9. LATER LIFE
10. DEATH AND LEGACY

Frederick Douglass, former slave and champion of civil rights, as he appeared in 1856. Photo online, courtesy National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution.

*Liberty is meaningless  
where the right to utter  
one's thoughts and opinions  
has ceased to exist.*

Frederick Douglass  
1860 Boston Speech

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was born in 1818 near the town of Easton, Maryland. Like most slaves, he did not know his birth date. Like many slaves, he had a black mother and a white father. Although he never could be sure, folks said his daddy was the plantation master, Aaron Anthony.

Because his mama, Harriet Bailey, worked as a field hand twelve miles away, little Frederick rarely saw her. His grandma was his primary care giver.

When Fred was about seven, Harriet died. Her son (the fourth of six children) was not allowed to see her when she was sick or when she passed away. Speaking of the few times he actually saw his mother, he later observed:

*I do not recollect of ever seeing my mother by the light of day. [She had to walk 12 miles, one way, to visit him.] She was with me in the night. She would lie down with me, and get me to sleep, but long before I waked she was gone. Very little communication ever took place between us. (Narrative, page 18.)*

When he was about six, young Fred went to work. No longer in the care of his grandma, he would serve the needs of others until he ran away. When he found freedom, he also took a new name: Frederick Douglass.

As Frederick Douglass, he was the first African-American to be nominated for U.S. President.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Frederick-Douglass-From-Slave-to-Leader)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Frederick-Douglass-From-Slave-to-Leader>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Frederick-Douglass-From-Slave-to-Leader)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Frederick-Douglass-From-Slave-to-Leader>



### Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey

Image online courtesy, Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Frederick-Augustus-Washington-Bailey>



### Frederick Douglass

Image online courtesy, the John H. Evans Library, [Florida Institute of Technology](http://www.floridainstituteoftechnology.edu) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Frederick-Douglass0>

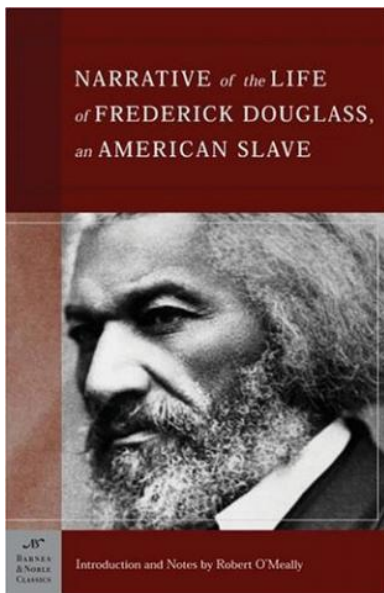


### Map Depicting Easton, Maryland

Image online courtesy, the [eastonmd.org](http://eastonmd.org) website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-Easton-Maryland>

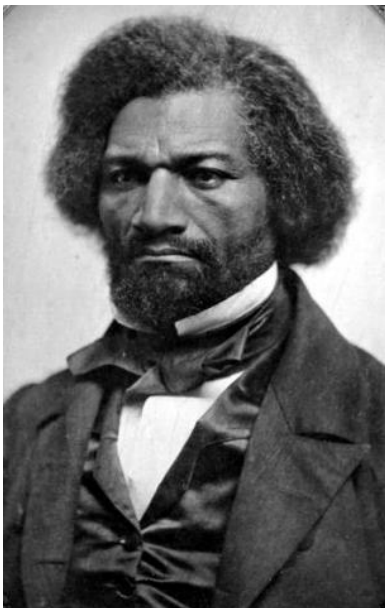


### Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

Image online courtesy, the [barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Narrative-of-the-Life-of-Frederick-Douglass>



### Frederick Douglass: From Slave to Leader

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Frederick-Douglass-From-Slave-to-Leader0>