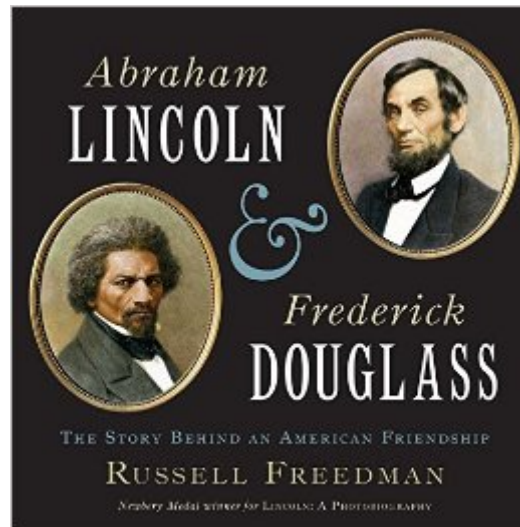


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# Abraham Lincoln And Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind An American Friendship



## Synopsis

From the author of *Lincoln: A Photobiography*, comes a clear-sighted, carefully researched account of two surprisingly parallel lives and how they intersected at a critical moment in U.S. history. Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were both self-taught, both great readers and believers in the importance of literacy, both men born poor who by their own efforts reached positions of power and prominence—Lincoln as president of the United States and Douglass as the most famous and influential African American of his time. Though their meetings were few and brief, their exchange of ideas helped to end the Civil War, reunite the nation, and abolish slavery. Includes bibliography, source notes, and index.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1110L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 128 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.6 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #609,275 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Era](#) #153 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Social Activists](#) #216 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Political](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I love history. History was my major at Uni. Granted, not American history, but a study of history and historiography is what little I can bring to this discussion. My reaction to this little volume was that I was overwhelmed. Russell Freedman does just an outstanding job of explaining this complicated era. He explains the major viewpoints and how they evolved. And better than any book I've read, the author has explained Abraham Lincoln's political fence walking. I really can't gush sufficiently about this book and I highly recommend it as a beginning text for any one who wanted to learn

about the American Civil War era. The story of Abraham Lincoln and the American hero Frederick Douglas and how they became friends is both charming and amazing. This book and *The Killer Angels* are books I'm going to 'push' at everyone I know. Together they capture an era, both events and personalities. Pam T~

The publisher states this is for grade 4/age 9 and up, but I personally would classify it for a year or two older. Parents may feel that some of it is too disturbing for the average fourth grader, particularly the image of the hanging of a Black soldier. Nonetheless, I am rating it highly because the writing is excellent and the presentation is first-rate. In spite of the text being aimed at the youth market, it is not written "down" at all. It's refreshingly devoid of the overly-simple language and choppy sentences that often mark children's nonfiction. It can even be enjoyed by high school students and adults. Russell Freedman draws upon Frederick Douglass's autobiography for the chapters on Douglass and artfully leaves out some of the violence while retaining just enough to illustrate the inhumanity of slave holding. He includes a biography of Lincoln too, of course. He builds some suspense towards their first meeting, which turned out to be cordial and productive. The history of the Civil War is pretty much limited here to the story of how it ended slavery in the United States -- an interesting and important story, covered briefly but sufficient as an introduction to the subject. Freedman points out parallels in the lives of Lincoln and Douglass, including the influence that the book "A Columbian Orator" had on them as young people. This aroused my curiosity so I was glad to see a reproduction of a chapter from that book in the back of this book, a short piece that influenced Frederick Douglass greatly: *Dialogue Between a Master and Slave*. I see that Freedman has written other history-based books for young people which received high ratings. Based on the quality of this book, I look forward to perusing some of the others.

Newbery Medal winner, Russell Freedman, does a fine job of portraying the powerful friendship and parallel lives of two men who shaped American history. One man an American president, the other a leading black abolitionist--one working to preserve the Union, the other urging freedom for all--influenced the course of the Civil War. The book opens on August 10, 1863 with Frederick Douglass walking into the White House unannounced, hoping to meet with President Lincoln. Freedman then brings the reader back to the birth of Frederick Douglass and through his earlier life. The history of Lincoln is also shared. Lincoln's "A House Divided" speech is highlighted, along with historical events that would lead to his election in 1860. Readers are quickly brought through the pivotal events of the Civil War, Lincoln's re-election and assassination, and the remainder of

Douglass' life. While some of the historical photographs might be too graphic for the youngest targeted readers, this is a superb book about the conflict and these two men who met only a handful of times, but who deeply respected each other and left their mark on the nation's history.

Freedman's latest book seems well-researched and well-written and is beautifully produced. The first chapters give history of Douglass's upbringing, the next chapters give history of Lincoln's childhood and youth, and the last half of the book follows the men in adulthood, as the Civil War boils up, and the men have occasion to cross paths. The slick pages give excellent quality to the many black and white photos and drawings. An excellent book for middle and high school readers, if they can handle Freedman's honest treatment, in both word and photo, of the brutality of slave life and the Civil War. A bibliography, list of sources for the quotes, picture credits and an index make this an excellent choice for school research. This book will continue Freedman's reputation as one of the top writers of nonfiction historical books for mature tween and teen readers. About me: I'm a middle school/high school librarian How I got this book: purchased for the library

The reader gets a fascinating insight into not only the relationship between Pres Lincoln and Mr. Douglas but also into the every day functioning of the Government, the white house and the interactions between the two competing sides in the slavery issue at that time. The reader also learns, once again, about the true inherent leadership ability, love of total country and concern for all americans that President Lincoln had. Very well told and fascinating and not well known story. Cal

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Friends for Freedom: The Story of Susan B. Anthony & Frederick Douglass  
Words Set Me Free: The Story of Young Frederick Douglass (Paula Wiseman Books)  
Abraham Lincoln in the Kitchen: A Culinary View of Lincoln's Life and Times  
The Real Lincoln: A New Look at Abraham Lincoln, His Agenda, and an Unnecessary War  
Lincoln's Sanctuary: Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home  
Who Was Frederick Douglass? The Classic Slave Narratives: The Life of Olaudah Equiano / The History of Mary Prince / Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass  
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass  
Magic Tree House Fact Tracker: Abraham Lincoln: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House #47: Abe Lincoln at Last!

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