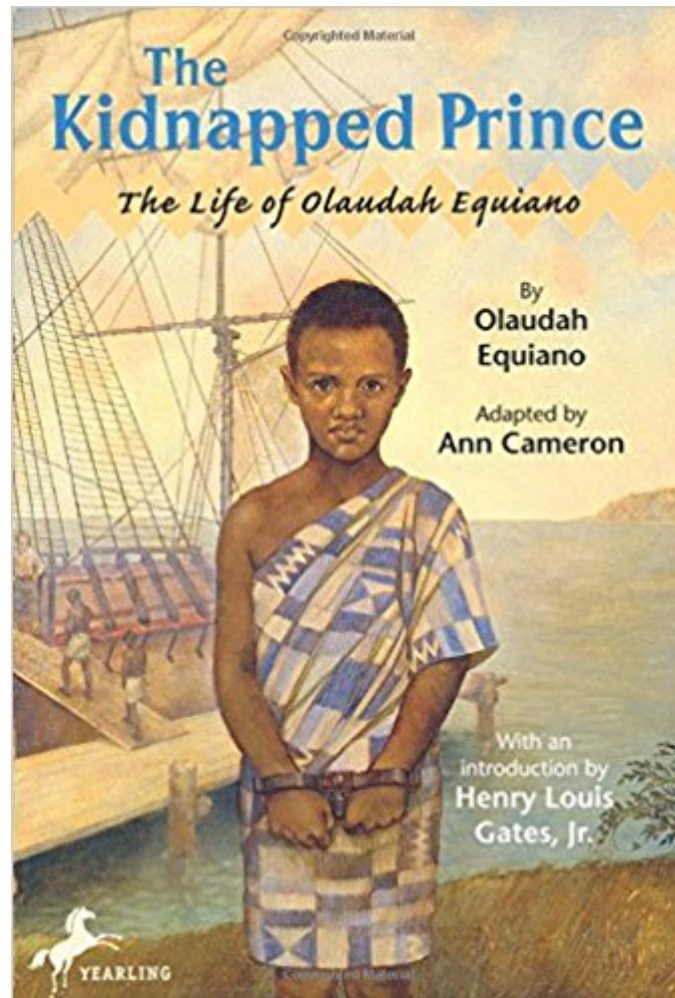




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# The Kidnapped Prince: The Life Of Olaudah Equiano



## Synopsis

Kidnapped at the age of 11 from his home in Benin, Africa, Olaudah Equiano spent the next 11 years as a slave in England, the U.S., and the West Indies, until he was able to buy his freedom. His autobiography, published in 1789, was a bestseller in its own time. Cameron has modernized and shortened it while remaining true to the spirit of the original. It's a gripping story of adventure, betrayal, cruelty, and courage. In searing scenes, Equiano describes the savagery of his capture, the appalling conditions on the slave ship, the auction, and the forced labor. . . . Kids will read this young man's story on their own; it will also enrich curriculum units on history and on writing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Up?Born the son of a chief in the kingdom of Benin, 11-year-old Olaudah Equiano lived an idyllic life until the day he and his sister were kidnapped by traders and sold into slavery. Nothing could have prepared him for this devastating experience. And yet, after a period of adjustment, he was able to live a purposeful and positive life. Serving various sea captains, he sailed to a number of places, including the West Indies, Virginia, Philadelphia, London, Charleston, and Savannah; learned how to read and write; and fought in the French and Indian War. After earning enough money to purchase his freedom at age 21, he settled in England and wrote his autobiography, becoming a spokesperson for the abolition of slavery and an advisor to free blacks. The inspired simplicity of Cameron's adaptation quickly allows Equiano's gifted voice to establish a compelling relationship between himself and young readers. Well sculpted with detail, the book describes practices of slavery among Africans, the press gang, and the dangers of being a free black. The

author reflects upon African tribal life and the contrasts among the various white people he encounters. His story is more exciting than Elizabeth Yates's *Amos Fortune, Free Man* (Dutton, 1967) and is a must for multicultural or history collections. ?Cindy Darling Codell, Clark Middle School, Winchester, KY Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 5-8. Kidnapped at the age of 11 from his home in Benin, Africa, Olaudah Equiano spent 11 years as a slave in England, the U.S., and the West Indies, until he was able to buy his freedom. His autobiography, published in 1789, was a best-seller in his own time, and it still speaks to us today. Cameron has modernized and shortened it while remaining true to the spirit of the original. It's a gripping story of adventure, betrayal, cruelty, and courage. In searing scenes, Equiano describes the savagery of his capture, the appalling conditions on the slave ship, the auction, and the forced labor. One chapter is about the horror of the West Indian plantations. Yet he survives; he retains his humanity, and he earns his freedom. He learns to read, and he writes his account to bear witness to what it was like to be a slave. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., points out in a fine introduction that Equiano shows the link between literacy and freedom, that he created the tradition of the "slave narrative," which influenced such African American writers as Douglass, Hurston, King, and Angelou. Kids will read this young man's story on their own; it will also enrich curriculum units on history and on writing. Read aloud the scenes when he is captured with his sister and torn away from her: "I went almost crazy from losing her . . . I would never forget her. I never saw her again." Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My son was assigned this book as part of his 5th grade curriculum. Sadly, I had never even heard of Olaudah Equiano. We read it together. I found this book to be profoundly touching. It is the true life story of a young boy kidnapped from Africa and sold into slavery. For me to write that this is a heart wrenching story would be an understatement. This was a difficult story (not in difficulty reading the words but the content of the words) for my 10 year old son. I am glad we read it together because honestly I think we both learned a lot.

An excellent view of life as a slave and the determination and motivation that kept this man alive until he could buy his freedom. Demonstrates that the thirst for knowledge and education can bring about the ownership of one's own destiny.

Great story. Easy read.

This is a great book because it is a primary source for people who want to study slavery. But be warned-there are very cruel things in this book that are described...

I am using this for language arts tutoring for a sixth grader. He loves this true story, and wants to read more about Olaudah.

This was a well written book for younger audiences looking into history/biography. The additional information of this character fills out his life and makes one realize how the human spirit must win over adversity to rise above the wrongs committed. It would be a good read for a school project.

My son needed this book for school, received fast and he got a A!

bought it for my daughter for school. She thought it was a good book but was not sure of what the message is. Be happy no matter if you are a slave?

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