

The Juneteenth Story

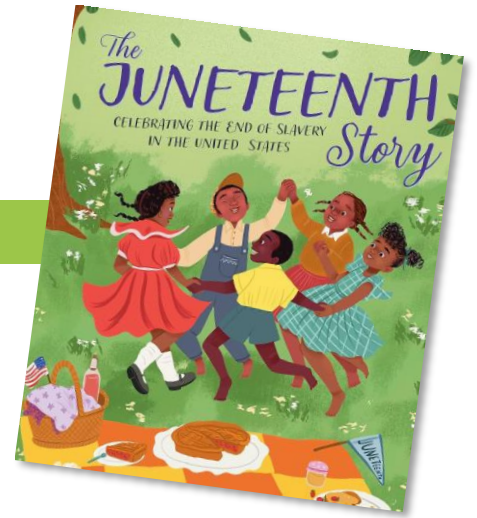
READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Black History, Equality, Family, Freedom, History, Resilience

Book Brief: On June 19, 1865, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, enslaved people in Texas learned of their freedom, marking the beginning of Juneteenth, a day of celebration and remembrance. Over time, the tradition spread across the country, becoming an official U.S. holiday in 2021, and now serves as an important cultural and historical observance.

Author:
Alliah L. Agostini

Illustrator:
Sawyer Cloud



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about

Prior Knowledge: Watch a video on the history of Juneteenth for children.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read today, we are going to find out why we celebrate Juneteenth."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Describe the meaning behind Fredrick Douglass' words.
- What does the illustration of the United States tell you about the states?
- What is Jubilee Day?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Juneteenth is a federal holiday. Why do we celebrate Juneteenth?

Extending Our Thinking: Using [RIF's Writing Template](#), have students create a timeline of the events that led to this American celebration.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about Black History in the [Black History Month Collection](#).