

*The Juneteenth Story: Celebrating the End of Slavery in the United States*

**Discussion Guide**

Grades 1-4

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

- Discuss the recent federal holiday on June 19<sup>th</sup> in honor of Juneteenth.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about this holiday. Do you know the history behind the holiday? Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: Juneteenth, slavery, emancipation, Abraham Lincoln, Civil War, freedom, justice, liberty

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.**

- Why do you think Juneteenth (June 19<sup>th</sup>) became a federal holiday?
- Are the illustrations & stories within the story helpful in understanding the concepts of slavery and emancipation? Why?
- What are you learning about slavery, freedom, and role of the President Lincoln in emancipating enslaved people?

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

Use the timeline in the back of the book to create a larger timeline of other events going on at the same time in world history. Be sure to include the events in the book's timeline to get a better understanding of what was happening around the globe at the same time.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to learn more about the Civil war, slavery, freedom, and similar themes.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books about these topics.