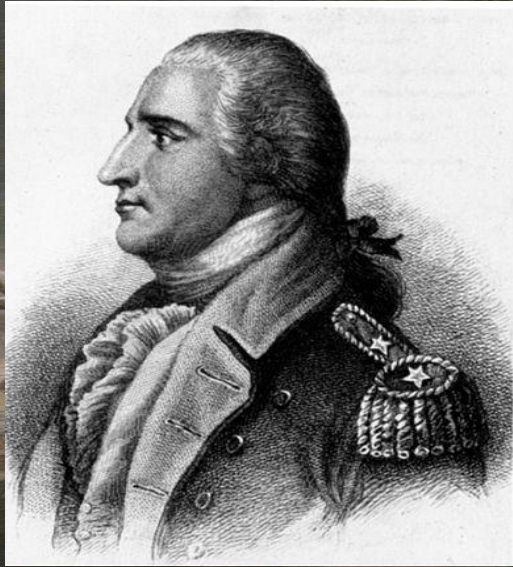




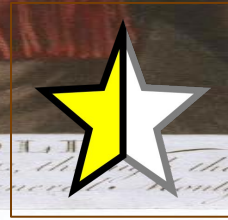
2015 American Rebellion Book Reviews

Team 6A kids tell us about the offerings in the DMS
library!

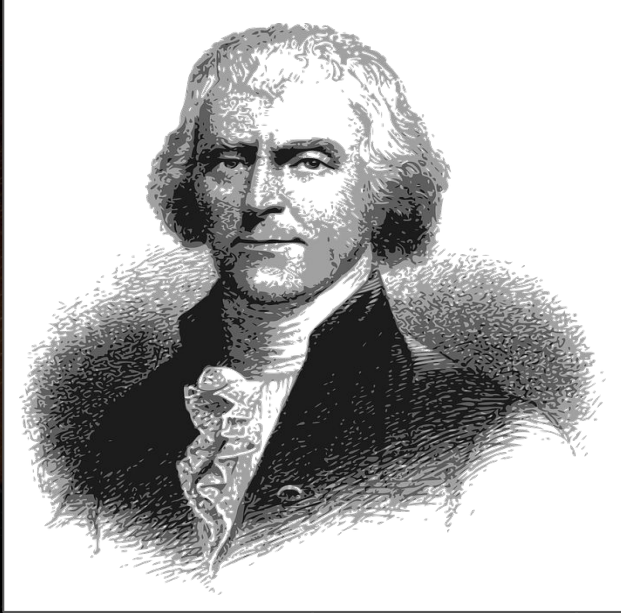
The real Benedict Arnold



In the story "The Real Benedict Arnold" Jim Murphy writes about the real facts about the "traitor" of Benedict Arnold. This story shows you the human side of an American villain, and seeks out the real facts weaved into fibs throughout history by Historians. The author also shows one brilliant man can make a choice that could change his life. If you enjoy a story of military adventure, and bits of politics along the way you may want to pick this book up at the library.



Thomas Jefferson President and Philosopher



Kayden's Review

I guess most sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students bet they know a whole lot about Thomas Jefferson. In this book you can learn so much more. I mean did you really know that Thomas had to be taught to be like his father so he had to go out into the wild with only a small hunting gun and catch something. Luckily he did. You can find mind blowing info that you never knew before. Trust me, if you read this book it won't be your average guy who impacted the past!!! Also in this book you will be able to see the true life of Thomas Jefferson. Did you know that he was good friends with most of his teachers. What I left with after reading this book is teachers, coaches and parents only push you as hard as they can because they know how good you actually can be. Don't take it as they are picking on you. Seriously, look at Thomas Jefferson today he is a big deal. I hope you read this book!!!



An American Revolutionary War Reader

Kirsten's book Review



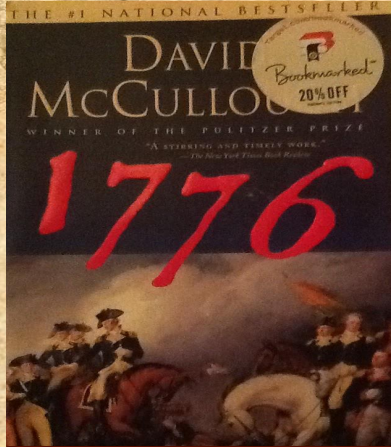
"I found a mixed multitude of People here, under very little discipline, order, or Government. I found the enemy possessed of a place called Bunker's Hill, on Charles Town Neck."

Have you ever wondered what life was really like for the heroes of the American Revolution? Or how they viewed their winnings and losses over the mighty battles? If you have, then this book is just right for you. Perfect for 6th graders, the "American Revolutionary War Reader" tells the stories of the brave men who fought in the vicious battles, and how they fought the mighty British. With true facts and statements, this book is greatly recommended for people who want real answers from real people who fought for liberty and justice for all.



1776 By: David McCullough

Sydney's Book Review



Perseverance and spirit have done wonders in all ages. -General George Washington

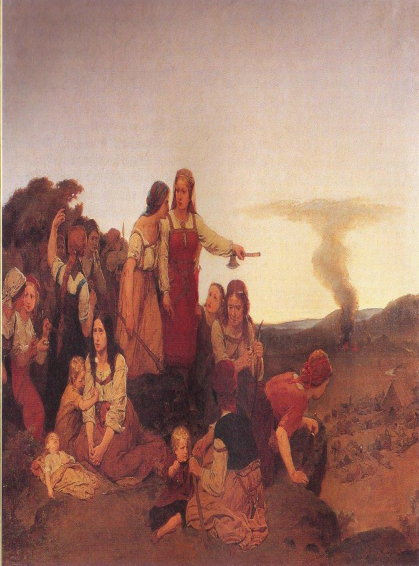
Do you want to learn more about 1776? Then this is the book for you! I recommend this wonderful book by David McCullough. It clearly explains to you what happened during this time of 1776. I really recommend this book to all 6th graders who would like to know more about 1776. I give this 4 stars because it was amazingly written, but it's not the type of book I would normally read.



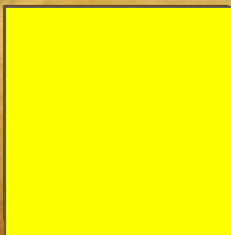
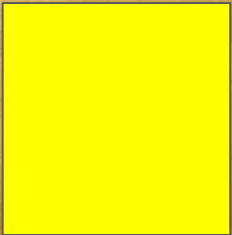
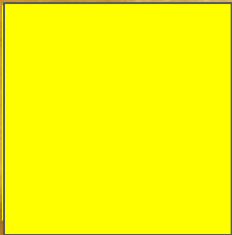
Soldier's Secret: The story of Deborah Sampson.

Done

“I never wanted to be a boy or a man.”
“What I always wanted was to be the equal of any boy.” This proves that the book is definitely well written and it is interesting that is why I gave it a 3 and ½ even if it might be better than that.



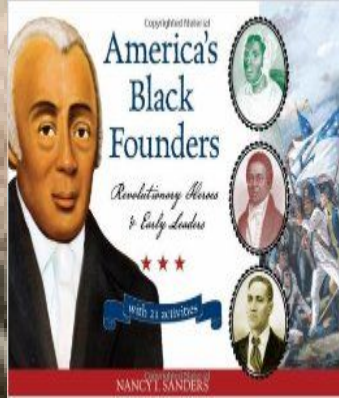
Have you ever read an amazing thrilling on the edge of your seat book well this is it. The main character Deborah Sampson goes “undercover” as a boy to be able to participate in the revolutionary war. It is also her whole life story in this small book. If you like suspense and bravery with a little violence here and there then this book is for you.



America's Black Founders Revolutionary Heroes & Early Leaders

"We often thought that after our master's death we were liable to be sold to the highest bidder, as he was much in debt; and thus my troubles were increased, and I was often brought up to weep."

Richard Allen



Do you want to learn about Black American History? Then you'll probably find interest in this book! This nonfiction book tells about how black Americans had to live through hard times and how their lives went and what they had to do. They talk about different black Americans for example Richard Allen, Peter Salem, and more. If you like history and find it's something you'd like to learn more about I'd say this book would be good for you. I'd give this book 3 ½ stars. I'd give it this much because it's not a book topic I usually read, so it was hard to stay interested. But if America's black founders is a topic you're interested in this would be a good book for you.

Megan's Review



Paul Revere



"Paul Revere remained best known, however, for his midnight ride." That's the only information about his famous midnight ride which is odd because he's well known for that ride.

PAUL REVERE BY GEORGE SULLIVAN IS A GREAT BOOK DESCRIBING PAUL REVERE'S LIFE. IT SHOWS HOW PAUL CONTRIBUTED IN THE WAR AND SAVED LIVES IN DIFFERENT WAYS. IT HELPS TELL US WHY PAUL REVERE IS AN IMPORTANT MAN IN OUR QUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE. DESPITE THIS, I DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO 6TH GRADERS. FOR STARTERS, THE BOOK IS A LITTLE TOO SHORT FOR AN AVERAGE SIXTH GRADE READING LEVEL. THE BOOK HAD LITTLE DETAIL AND NOT A LOT OF EXACT FACTS. DESPITE THIS, I THINK THIS IS A GREAT BOOK FOR YOUNGER KIDS TO GET AT LEAST AN IDEA OF HOW PAUL REVERE'S LIFE WAS. AFTER READING THIS BOOK, UPCOMING SIXTH GRADERS CAN EXPAND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF PAUL AND GET INTO MORE DETAIL OF THIS MAN IN SIXTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES. THE BOOK KIND OF LEFT OUT IMPORTANT PARTS THAT COULD BE A MAIN TOPIC FOR FUTURE GRADE LEVELS. I'M NOT SAYING THE BOOK WAS BAD BUT, I AM SAYING THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND THE BOOK PAUL REVERE BY GEORGE SULLIVAN, TO SIXTH GRADERS. I GIVE THIS BOOK THREE OUT OF FIVE STARS!



Come August, come freedom: the bellows, the gallows, and the black general Gabriel.



Gabriel and his brother Solomom were taken away from their mother and now there mom prays everyday, " set her light upon Solomom and Gabriel, Lord, bring my boys home. Bring them home from Richmond and back to me one day."

The book *Come August, come freedom the bellows, the gallows, and the black general Gabriel* is about a boy born a slave by the name of Gabriel. Gabriel grows up capable and literate only to be taken away from his mother and sent to the capital city as a blacksmith's apprentice. There in the forge, a meeting point for many travelers and news bearers, his work awakens him to the sparks of resistance that are igniting into rebellion around the globe. When Gabriel is unable to defend the love of his life and earn the money to buy her freedom, and with the news of Toussaint's successful rebellion against Haiti's slave master, Gabriel makes a decision. That freedom for just his family would not be good enough. Using the forge to turn pitchforks into swords and his eloquence to turn dreams into rallying cries. Gabriel now plots a rebellion involving thousands of slaves, free blacks, poor whites, and Native Americans. To those excluded from the promise of the Revolution, Gabriel intends to bring liberty. If you really like reading a well done book on slaves well this is the book for you.

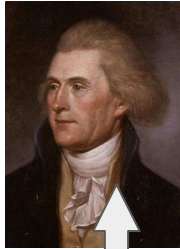
Justin's Review



American Sphinx the Character of Thomas Jefferson

**"In matters of style,
swim with the current;
in matters of principle,
stand like a rock"**

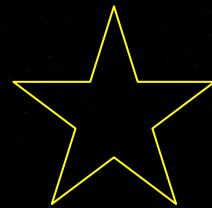
T.J. S.H.



"All
people
are
created
equally"

Thomas Jefferson

This book *American Sphinx the Character of Thomas Jefferson* is about a man who has been through a tough journey, but has led him closer to reaching his goals. While he was drafting the Declaration of Independence, he wrote, "all people are created equally"; however, he was married to a slave named Sally Hemings. There were many excited and tragic periods in his life throughout the book and I think that other kids would enjoy. In my opinion, I strongly think I should give a star rate of a three, because this story interested me with it's facts on Jefferson and what he had been through during the late 1700s and early 1800s. I would recommend this book for 6th graders because I think kids would be inspired by his words and actions.



George Washington Spymaster How the Americans outspied the British and won the Revolution



Although Braddock and his men knew little about the area, they had not tried to gather any information about the enemy so they were easily ambushed. Braddock was wounded and later died.

This book is a great book if you want to learn about the behind the scenes decisions of the American Revolution. George Washington was one of the greatest spies during the American Revolution and he was able to outspy the British to earn independence for America. During the battles that led to the American victory there was a lot of bad blood - on and off the battlefield. This book also showed me as I was reading it how hard it was for Washington to play such a complex part during the revolution. For example during the times in between the battles Washington had to make sure every route the the troops took was a good route to get to where they wanted to go and that they do not get attacked by the British. The American Revolution was so much more than just winning 5 or 6 battles. They also had to be at the top of their spy game or they would have been toast! In this book I was able to see things through the commander's eyes which I thought was a really good way to see what that time was like for the americans. I personally recommend this book to anyone who is interested the American Revolution and anyone who wants to learn more than what happened on the battlefields so many years ago.

Andrew's Review

William Braddock



E. Braddock



Samuel Adams

Samuel Adams
Son Of Liberty, Father Of
Revolution- Benjamin H. Irvin



This painting conveys the signing of the Declaration of Independence, with Samuel Adams seated seventh from the left, next to his political ally, Richard Henry Lee.



The book, Samuel Adams Son Of Liberty, Father Of Revolution- Benjamin H. Irvin, is all about a famous man named Samuel Adams, or as Thomas Jefferson calls him, "Man of the Revolution". Samuel Adams is a graphic image of one of our nation's most interesting Founding Fathers. Samuel Adams in 1773, helped put together the Boston Tea Party and then soon after, he was chosen to stand for Massachusetts in both the First and Second Continental Congress. Do I think that this book would be good for 6th graders? It honestly all depends on your interest on him? There are also many words you will need the dictionary for. All in all, this book packed with strong and interesting facts. I personally liked the book Samuel Adams Son Of Liberty, Father Of Revolution- Benjamin H. Irvin, and hopefully you will too.



Alexander Hamilton

The Outsider

Quote, (showing the night of the crossing):
"With their oars wrapped in blankets, men rowed back and forth across the river." Having the oars wrapped in those blankets helped them to be quiet for the attack. Without the blankets it would of made large splashing noises and the Hessians would've known that they were coming.

Fun fact Alexander hamilton started the U.S mint in Philadelphia

Madison's Review

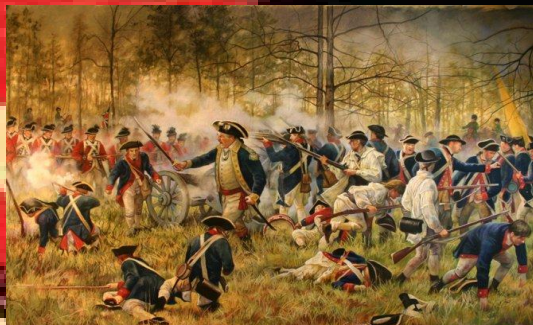


This story of Alexander Hamilton explained to the readers all about his life and what he went through. I definitely recommend this book to other 6th graders to read, because it is such a well written book with a lot of interesting facts about his life. In the beginning of the story the book explains to us that ever since he was born he was an outsider. Meaning that he always stood out in his life because there was little money. As he grew older he got offered a job and he accepted it, helping him and his family have a better life. He became friends with George Washington and actually traveled across the Delaware right next to him on a boat getting ready to surprise the town of Trenton. Soon later after that, Alexander Hamilton started writing letters for Washington because he had such neat handwriting. As you read this book it is very hard to put it back down, and I definitely recommend this book to other 6th graders in the future



Sophia's War

A Tale of the Revolution



"Because of William's and Captain Hale's deaths (and all the others), I wanted to become the soldier my brother had been... Thus, I have made up my mind. I would join Robert Townshend. I would become a spy... Were these not enough reasons to stop John Andre?... For I knew two things: that I had caused his hanging death and that I adored him."

Sophia's War, by Avi, was about a young lady who wasn't afraid to be brave during the rough year of 1776. There were many battles her country was in danger of and America needed someone to lead them to victory. With two major losses in her life she had to make decisions to honor the people who left her sight. Not only that, but the poverty her family experienced kept her from searching for her brother, food, as well as finding a job for her family to earn money. While on her way to see two printers (Mr. Gaine and Mr. Rivington, both family friends) she is stopped by a sight of Patriot soldiers fighting for our country, lead by British officers. Once all her focus is on them, she notices her brother (William). All of the fear and excitement was tumbling in her head and she finally blurts out some questions to a young man standing behind her. Not knowing if he was British or American that question is answered a couple of days later, when that same person knocks on the door. While some of those questions are now answered, she and her lieutenant, John Andre, 22 years old, have grown a strong relationship. Once, he notices that she is always worrying about her brother William, he pledges that if she needs any help while on the journey to finding her brother he will always be there. While searching for William the promise they once shared left Sophia heartbroken. In that period of time one of her most valuable things in life was lost. Three years later, after a sad time in her life happened she gets back on her feet and starts working for the print shop again. There, she meets Mr. Townshend who is a spy at the "Smith's" house. She is asked a question that only a brave young lady would be asked. She had to decide if she wants to be a spy and make decisions to save her country or just be a bystander. Being her brave self she chose to be a spy that could potentially change the world. She finds many clues and information about the British plans and she decides to tell someone. She travels 20 miles following the British troops to report all what she knows to the leader of the American troops. Here, she is feeling guilty about John Andre but knows that she did the right thing for William.



Finishing Becca: A story about Peggy Shippen and Benedict Arnold

"Of course, I belong there. Not on this farm. I know I could play the harpsichord she speaks of. I know I could do the dances. There is something in me that is drawn to that life. Something that sickens my soul for the lack of it."

Rebecca Syng: an independent, brave, and young patriotic woman. Most people call her Becca, and Becca is someone who has high dreams of leaving her farm and moving to a big city for her dream dancing career (as seen to the left). Later in her life she finds herself in a maid outfit being Peggy Shippen's personal maid. Peggy Shippen is a spoiled and greedy young woman. Fortunately, she is very kind to Becca. Throughout the story, Becca records in the book her perspective of the Shippen household and what she witnesses. Along the way, Becca meets Peggy's husband Benedict Arnold who is (or was) a general for America. Benedict Arnold is an ambitious and responsible man. In the story and reality Benedict Arnold became a traitor and fought for the British. Becca investigates the reason for this and finds that maybe Peggy Shippen was the reason of this tragedy!!! All in all, I do recommend this book because of the craft and lifestyle this book puts you in.



1700s dancer



Benedict's second wife

Benedict Arnold Peggy Shippen



Benedict Arnold



Thomas Paine: Crusader for Liberty. By Albert Marrin



"Paine, however, had a better idea. He told the president that Napoleon was starved for money to finance his wars. So why not offer to buy the entire Louisiana Territory? Jefferson thanked him for the suggestion, adding that he had already decided to do just that. He made an offer Napoleon could not refuse. On May 3, 1803, the United States paid the bargain price of \$15 million, or three cents an acre. Jefferson had doubled the size of his country with a stroke of a pen...."

Thomas Paine was born on January 29, 1737 in a small thatched cottage in Thetford, England. He later changed his name to Paine so people wouldn't get confused. His parents didn't know it yet but their baby boy was going to be one of the most influential writers of the 18th century.

Paine left England to sail to the New World in October 1774. His boat was infected with the horrible disease called typhus. He landed in the thirteen colonies on November 30, 1774 so weak he couldn't even get up to go to the bathroom. Dr. John Kearsley nursed Paine back to health and he was on his way.

Thomas Paine wrote many famous books and pamphlets such as "Common Sense," "Rights of Man" and "The Age of Reason." Thomas was a man that changed people's view on independence.

After the war Paine moved to France because there he was like a hero. The Reign of Terror was in full swing at this time so Paine got thrown into prison. Because a mistake the guards made, Paine didn't get killed by the guillotine. After the Reign was over Thomas fled back to America where he spent the last of his days. The great author died on June 18, 1809 in his sleep.

What Thomas Paine left was not an object but a legacy that still inspires people today. I recommend this book to all people who like to read about unheard of famous people from history.



Washington at Valley Forge

"By the time Washington learned about the fight at the Crooked Billet, a courier had galloped into the Valley Forge encampment bearing sensational news from France. Earlier that year, the King of France, Louis XVI, had recognized the independence of U.S. Treaties of friendship and alliance between the 2 countries had been signed on Feb. 6."



This book is an awesome non-fiction book that tells all the details about George Washington's experience in the revolutionary war. It shows the different struggles he had like at the beginning when his soldiers were walking on nothing but ice without shoes or clothes. it also tells you about the good things like the alliance with the french. that was a miracle for the Continental Army. Do you want to hear about George Washington's experience? Read to find out about it!

http://dms.delranschools.org/students/james_a_duda_memorial_library/reading

The above link contains other links to sites with book reviews. Thanks Mrs. Bickel



Johnny Tremain: A novel for old and young.



“On ROCKY ISLANDS gulls woke. Time to be about their business. Silently they floated in on town, but when there icy eyes sighted the first dead fish, first bits of garbage about the ships and wharves, they began to scream and quarrel.

The cocks in Boston back yards had long before cried the coming of day. Now the hens were also awake,scratching,clucking,laying eggs.”



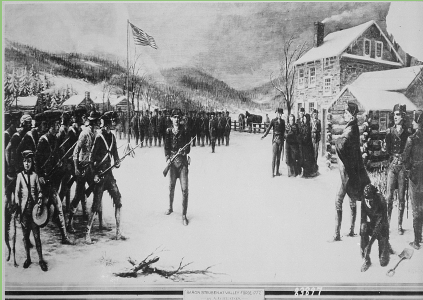
The book *Johnny Tremain*, By Esther Forbes, follows a boy named Jonathan Lyte Tremain and his adventure in Boston . Johnny is an apprentice at Mr. Lapham’s silversmith shop along with Dove and Dusty. He is a very talented boy, finding his passion in the art of being a silversmith. But Johnny does have his flaws. He is too confident in himself and has an overbearing cockiness towards the other boys. He gives them orders and is not “humble” in god’s eyes. He is suddenly kicked out (for a reason I will not spoil), and has to find another home at which he can stay. Living a harsh life on the streets, Johnny almost has to resort to delinquency, But when he meets Rab Silsbee and the Lornes, he decides to choose the right path.Rab is fearless, known to many as a young man instead of an old boy. Johnny is greatly influenced by Rab and strives to be like him one day. Mr.Lorne is Rabs uncle and master, owning a print shop that issues the *Boston Observer*. Johnny is assigned his own horse and is given the task of sending letters throughout Boston. People knew that if you needed a message to be sent quickly, then Johnny Tremain could do it. With the heated rivalry between the 13 colonies and Great Britain in 1773, Johnny found himself being involved in 2 historical events. He was part of the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington.

This story is so well written and I would definitely recommend it to other readers. The book gave me a sense of what it would be if I were a kid Thomas’s age during the mid 1700’s. The details made me feel as if I were there alongside Johnny. Overall I believe that this book was a good find and It was well worth reading.

The Revolutionary War and George Washington's Army in American History

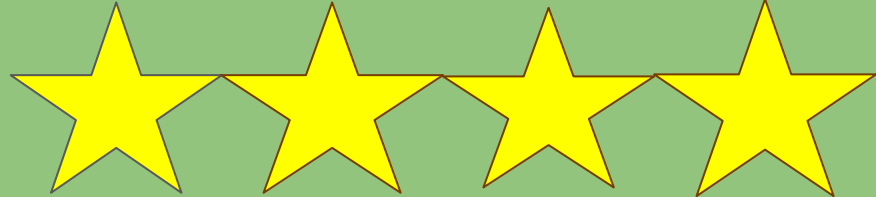
"Two important forts with twenty-eight hundred men and many cannons, supplies, and ammunition had also been lost. Many Americans were beginning to fear that their cause was hopeless and that the powerful military forces of Great Britain were slowly going to crush American independence.

Washington felt that the revolution needed a victory or it would simply wither away. He decided to strike at one the small forces Cornwallis had left along the Delaware River in New Jersey. The plan he came up with was one of the most daring and dangerous of the entire Revolutionary War."



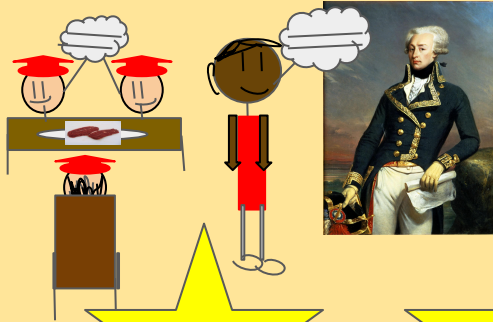
This book explains the American Revolution and the battles in a more detailed way. It starts off with a chapter on George Washington and give details about him. The rest of the chapter focuses on Lexington and Concord, the shot that started the war. In the other chapters, it talks about the other battles, and explains them in more detail, and points out things you may not have know. Along the way, there are these source documents which go along with the page you are reading that is an actual letter or something that someone wrote. An example of a source document in the book is when the soldiers were in bad shape and had lost hope camping at Valley Forge. There was excerpt where Washington describes the conditions of the soldiers to Patrick Henry. Henry was the governor of Virginia at the time, and he supplied the soldiers with clothes and shoes. The book explains everything from when George Washington was selected to lead the army to the end of the war.

I think that this is a very well written book and would be very helpful to educate other students about the American Revolution. It will help you understand more and learn things along the way that you probably didn't know. This book isn't too long and it will probably take about 5 days to finish. If you want to read a book to better educate yourself about the American and all the battles in the big war, then this is a great book to read.



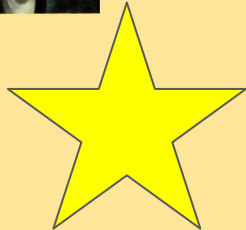
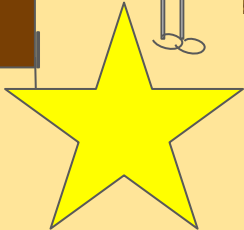
Liberty Or Death: The Surprising Story Of Runaway Slaves Who Sided With The British During The American Revolution

"Blacks served effectively on both sides as spies. One particularly skillful at this dangerous game was the slave, James, owned by a Virginian named Armistead. With Armistead's permission, James served under General Lafayette. James cleverly sought out a position as servant for the British General Cornwallis. While serving meals to high-ranking officers, James overheard their discussion of military plans. He secretly sent information about British troop movements back to Lafayette."



The book, Liberty Or Death, is an interesting, non-fiction, book, about different slaves who ran away from their American owners to fight for the British during the American Revolution in the promise of freedom. After the war and the harsh reality of the consequences the runaway slaves faced for escaping, like being threatened to come back and work extremely hard for years and years again, there was even more struggle. As many unlucky slaves realized that their promised land was just a fantasy because all white men who fought were given land first, the struggling they faced got worse and worse. With each step they took, there was more fear of capture and enslavement, and all they could do was hide from slave traders. Finally, they got their land, 20 acres for the men, and a few for their wife and children in Sierra Leone. Even though this was paradise at first, many people learned about all of the thunderstorms and diseases the hard way. Also, after their beloved leader left them, there was a struggle to find a good leader, and lots of chaos came along with that. Do they ever sort anything out?

I recommend this book to people who enjoy learning about the history of our country, and also about slavery, and what slaves had to go through. I thought this was a really great book, and I was very happy that I happened to choose this one. If you're not into history, but have to read a book about it, I think this book is also perfect for you, since it's not very long, and keeps you interested the whole way through. I really hope you decide to read this book since it is so interesting, and makes you not want to put the book down. I was surprised by how much I enjoyed this book, since history isn't my favorite, but I really did like it. Have fun reading this book, and never stop reading!



George vs George

"The year was 1763, and in many ways, George Washington of America and King George III of Great Britain were very much alike...George II believed that a king should rule America. for a long time, George Washington thought so, too. He had even fought bravely alongside the British army. People of Great Britain and the people from Britain's American colonies had a lot in common too."

Were not so different



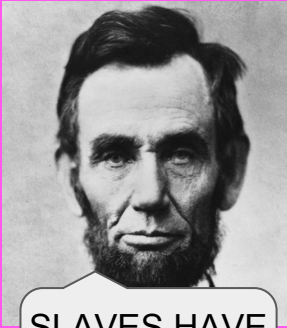
This book introduces its readers to two men and both their names were George. George Washington, the general, president, and man who freed American colonies from Great Britain, and the King George III the man who lost the colonies. This book follows both these leaders throughout America's independence and shows us a times that they are more similar than most people thought. To add on, it shows us both sides of the argument/war and shows how they handled their army and other problems. It also gives us a lot of factual information about the war and has many real quotes that were actually said, all placed in speech bubbles. It explains how both Georges were family men and leaders of rival nations. All in all this book shows us that there are always two sides to every story most americans think the king was a brute but really from Britain's point of view Washington was a traitor. One man's freedom fighter is another man's traitor and that was the case for both Georges on both sides of the war.

I highly recommend this book to all 6th graders especially those who like visuals/pictures to go along with information. I rate this book 5/5 stars for its content and information and it's amazing ability to make me want to finish it in one day. In conclusion, the author Rosalyn Schanzer put so much work and effort into writing this amazing eye opening book. n fact she spent 2 years of her whole life creating the exemplary book for people like you to read and enjoy.



The Sons of Liberty (2 vols.) [only 1 vol.]

"He comes to my farm tellin' my slaves they have rights. That they should revolt and a whole lot of other nonsense. I will not have my property disrupted by the ravings of a lunatic nor will I allow my son to be threatened by one."



SLAVES HAVE
RIGHTS TOO



The Sons of Liberty is a graphic novel that brings together fantasy and historical fiction in a way that was so impressive that I gave this book 5 stars. I gave it this rating because it helped me learn history in a more fun way. The story was mainly about Graham and Brody, 2 young slaves that run away from their master's plantation and seek help from Benjamin Lay. On their trip, they encounter a pack of wild dogs that keep them running until they get their unlikely superpowers. From the vivid pictures to the fantasy superpowers, this book was a history book that I did not want to put down. I think that other 6th grade students will like this book also because it teaches you history, in a more colorful and interesting way. http://dms.delranschools.org/students/james_a_duda_memorial_library/reading The above link contains other links to sites with book reviews. Thanks Mrs. Bisirri!!



The Fighting Ground by Avi

"Slowly, he pulled it clear and grasped it in his hands. He looked down at it. Then, lifting it, holding it by the barrel, he swung it over his head. with the surging strength of his exploding rage, he brought it down against the stone hearth.



This haunting story reveals the true horrors of war, and that not everything in the American Revolution was glorious and righteous. It follows thirteen year-old Jonathan, anxious to fight for the freedom of his country and wishing to prove his worth in battle. When the tavern tolls his bell to signal that something is happening with the British, Jonathan goes without asking his father. But what he will discover in the days ahead will completely change his mind about war. Simply worded yet meaningful, this book has many powerful moments that stay with you long after you put it down.

http://dms.delranschools.org/students/james_a_duda_memorial_library/reading

The above link contains other links to sites with book reviews. Thanks Mrs. Bisirri!

Phillis Wheatley: Slave and Poet

"It wasn't long before the Wheatleys noticed something special about Phillis. She was intelligent, curious, and quick to learn."



Phillis Wheatley. A slave and a poet. Phillis a young slave girl is taken in by the Wheatley family at a slave auction after being taken from her home in Africa. Despite not being able to speak English, Phillis turns out to be a very fast learner and catches on quick. After she receives a good education, she goes on to realize that she has a hidden talent. A talent that would one day come to impress some very important people. That talent would be poetry. This was a very interesting book to begin with, however I gave it two stars because halfway through the book I became extremely bored. There wasn't as much going on. Just the same old things over and over. I do not highly recommend this book to other 6th graders as most of us enjoy some action and aren't interested in slow poetry-filled books.



The Signers: The 56 stories behind the Declaration of Independence.

"The delegates expected that July 2 would be honored as the new nation's birthday."



The Signers: The 56 Stories Behind the Declaration of Independence by Dennis Brindell Fradin is a book that shows both the struggles and hardships the signers of the Declaration of Independence. This non-fiction explains that behind the historic names and fancy clothes and paintings, they were real people with real families and homes. You get to experience where these people came from and how they were able to climb the ladder to the top and become a signer. You get to see that all of the members of congress came from different backgrounds that helped shape their point of view and how they were as they got older.

I recommend this book to sixth graders who enjoy learning amazing new things about how our country came to be. Also this book doesn't add a lot of extremely interesting information until the end of each person's section. So if you are going to read this book you have to have patients.



Chains

"I'd been making like this for a year. No matter what I said, or where the sun and the moon and the stars hung, Momma never answered."



As the Revolutionary War begins, a 13 year old girl named Isabel fights for her freedom. Her and her sister Ruth were promised freedom upon the death of their owner. However, something happens and the 2 sisters become property of a mean couple in NYC, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. However, when Isabel meets another slave named Curzon who encourages her to spy on her masters, the unthinkable happens to Ruth, and Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

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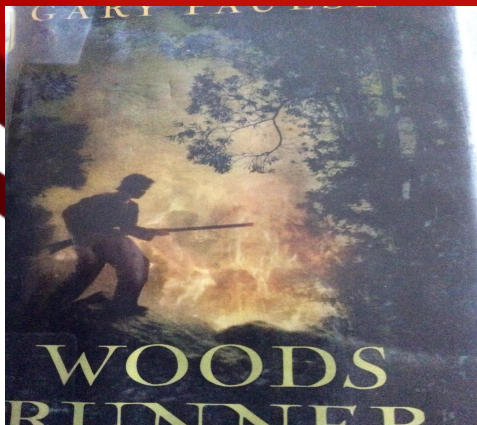
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Woods runner

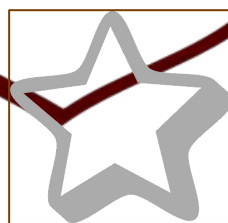
"Live long enough, be slow enough,
get old enough"



This book woods runner is about a boy named Samuel and he is struggling in a war. The world was perfectly fine until the redcoats came and destroyed his family's home. He ran every day and night to try to find his mother and father. Read the book to find out more about the misshap in the book.

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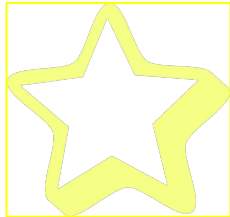
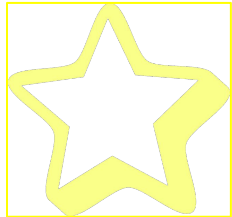
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Laffeyette and the American Revolution

Excerpt and illustration of chosen excerpt from text that supports your star rating of the book.

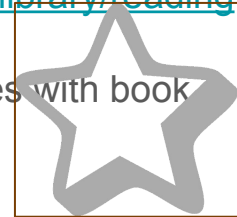
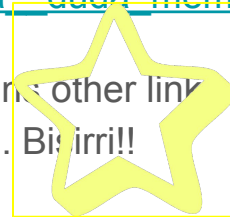
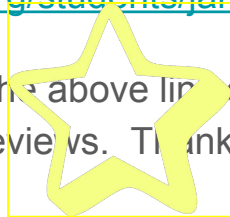
“At dawn the sound of hoofbeats, then gunfire...”



I found Lafayette and the American Revolution by Russell Freedman very intriguing. It was loaded with facts. Like for example He actually had to escape from France to join the Continental army. Also he actually defended a British attack on Valley Forge. In addition, the book was loaded with powerful well worded sentences like. “At dawn the sound of hoofbeats, then gunfire...” I gave it only four stars however due to the fact it was short and I was done way too soon. Really though the book has taught me that had this young aristocrat not been part of the Revolution, we wouldn't have a country.

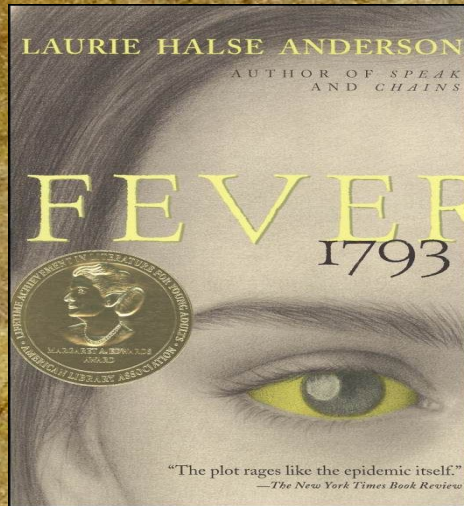
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Fever 1793

"Everything was fine. And then the fever struck."



Everything was going fine for Matilda Cook, working and living at the Cook Coffeehouse. Then came the epidemic. People start to die, one of them being Mattie's best friend. Then Mother gets sick. Matilda and her Grandfather leave Philadelphia to get away from the sickness. Will this be more than they bargained for? I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to have a book that has a lot of suspense, though this is not for the faint of heart, because it is very morbid.

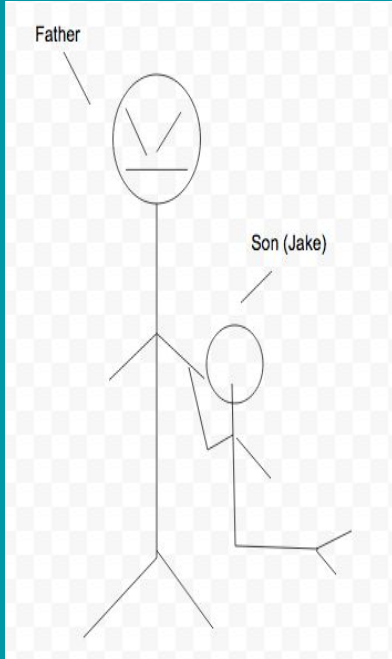
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Alex's Review.

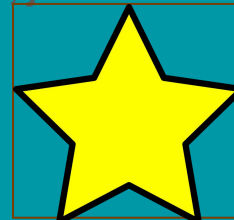


Five 4ths of July



“He headed for the door; Father scrambled to his feet, blocking the way, and seized Jake’s arm.” I chose this excerpt because it shows how mean his father was to him.

In the book Five 4ths of July, which takes place during the American Revolution, Jake Mallory fights his own war for freedom. Jake feels like a servant to his father, which, in my opinion, is not a very good feeling to have. Jake loves being wild, in fact, his nickname, “Mal” means “bad” in French. As I stated above, his father is very strict and insists that Jake remains at home to join the local militia in case their town is attacked. But on July 4th, 1779, Jake’s whole life gets turned around. The British are coming. The brutal battle of New Haven sets off a series of horrific events that will shatter his whole entire life. He finally realizes what’s at stake in this war when he lost his own freedom. I think many 6th graders would enjoy this book for multiple reasons, however one in particular is that he fights his own war. Many people, especially our age, has fought for something. Whether it’s with another student on who gets to present a project, or even if you can’t decide if you or your sibling should get to control the tv remote. Everyone has faced a hardship in their life, just like Jake Mallory.



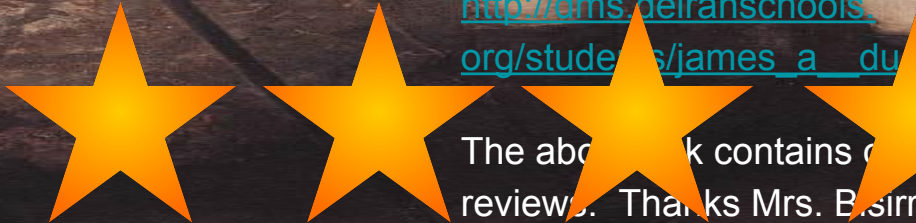
Cast Two Shadows: The American Revolution In The South



"He was with me when I lost all loyalty for Britan, he has hidden so many times, for me, I can't let him go." I chose this because it shows her deep love for Johnny's, now her horse.

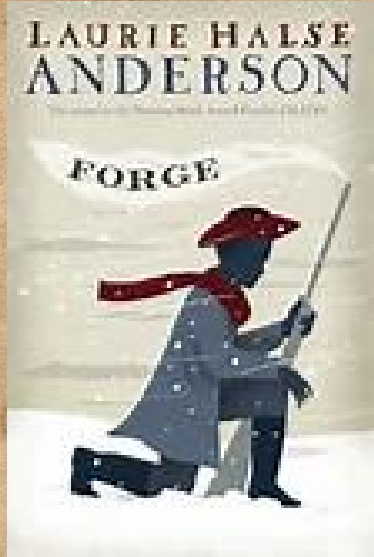
In the book Cast two shadows: American revolution in the south, a girl named Caroline lives on a spacious plantation with many slaves and a half family. That is until one day she and her two friends (Kit and Sam) when the spot the Redcoats marching into their town. Her friends get their pistols and run at the british shooting. They get captured and Kit gets hung while sam goes to prison with her patriot "father". Witnessing all these terrible things, made her have a deep hatred towards Britan. Later she fids out that a British coloniel is staying in their house while confining her, her loyalist sister and loyalist mother to one small chamber upstairs. She tries to act as if she is a loyalist, when she slips, she has a smart recovery to play it off. Her brother Johnny goes to fight for the loyalists in war. The after a while, she gets a letter and message from one of her trusted slaves. Her brother had been wounded in war. She gets permission from colonial Rawdon (the one occupying her home to fetch him. Even though she is white, she has a black grandmother. If anyone, Caroline trusts her grandmother the most. They go on an epic journey to find her brother. Read the book to find out what happens next. I would recommend this book to anybody who enjoys books where people talk in slang and old english.

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Forge by Laurie Halse Anderson



One of the best books I read about the American Revolution is this book, *Forge* by Laurie Halse Anderson. It is the sequel to the book *Chains*. One of the characters from the last book who is Curzon, runs away from his master with his friend Isabelle. But when Isabelle ditches him to find her little sister, he has to survive by himself. He ends up killing a redcoat which leads him to decide that he will fight in the war. Now the only thing he needs to think about is will he get his freedom at the end of the war? I recommend this book to anyone who likes action and history.

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The Secret of Sarah Revere



"I shall teach my little brother well. And one of the things I shall teach him is that you must always make it up with a dear friend when you have a quarrel. Before it is too late." This part of the book shows that Sarah is a caring person and tells her little brother some words of wisdom for forgiveness."

Winter Of Red Snow is a diary written by Abigail Jane Stewart. The diary tells you all about her life in Valley Forge during the American Revolution. A few conflicts her family faced was keeping her newborn brother Johnny alive during the winter and housing a pregnant widow who had lost her husband in the war. The winter of 1777 was especially harsh on the soldiers because of shortages of supplies, frostbite, and lack of men. This book was good and I especially recommend it to people who like suspenseful stories.

Danielle's Review.



Winter of Red Snow

"Two of our pigs are missing. Papa said footprints in the snow were from soldiers. He knew this because of the blood." (page 33) I give this book 3 stars because it was very suspenseful, but it didn't capture my interest very much.

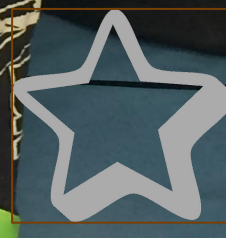
TEMPLATE--DO NOT TOUCH!!

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The Year of the Hangman



His command was cut off by an ear-numbing roar, like a peal of thunder, but ten times louder. In the same instant there came a sickening splintering sound, and suddenly the air was filled with flying bits of wood and metal



In this historical fiction story in which Great Britain wins the American Revolution, we meet Creighton, a “gentleman” who gets sent to the american colonies against his will by his mother after Great Britain wins the revolution. Through his journey, he meets many historical figures including Benedict Arnold, Benjamin Franklin, and more. He has loyalty towards Great Britain, and looks down on the colonists, but over time he starts to learn what it means to work hard and what the colonies are fighting for. Soon, he'd have to choose which side he's actually on when his new friends need his help, but his country that he knows and loves is counting on him.

I give this story 3 stars because it had what you wanted- battles, drama, and references to actual history, but didn't go the extra mile with details on the environment, plot, and character development (besides Creighton). http://dms.delranschools.org/students/james_a_duda_memorial_library/reading



April Morning

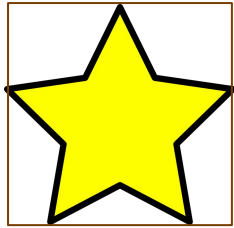


“...here was a rider telling us that a British army was coming.”

Unfortunately, this was not until $\frac{1}{3}$ of the story when the climax started. Up until this point the whole book was explaining the characters.

I've read *April Morning* by Howard Fast and I would not recommend this book to others. The beginning of story, it was very slow as you learn about the characters. Adam Cooper is a 15 year old farm boy living in Massachusetts. He wanted more than anything to be treated like a man by his father and he thought his father didn't love him. He gets his opportunity to be a man when he is informed that the British are coming. To impress his father, he signs the muster book saying he will fight. This quickens his process to be a man. When the British show up, it's a bloodbath and Adam sees his father killed by a British soldier. After that he travels around fighting the British wherever they go. After the Battle of Lexington, the British retreat back to Boston. Adam finally returns home to deal with his family and father's death.

Mason

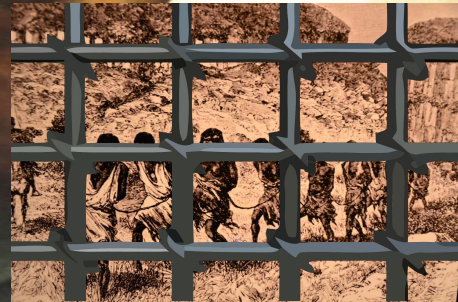
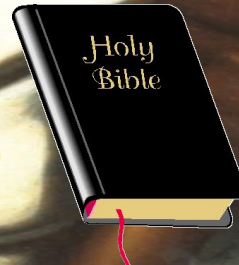


The Amistad Slave Revolt

"During their detention, the Africans had been 'civilized'--- taught English by Yale students, converted to Christianity, and shown off for the abolitionist cause."

Many times during the book, it was obvious that the statements were bias. If you were trying to find facts, this wouldn't be a good book, but I gave it credit for doing a good job for including as much information as possible and doing a good job of telling the story.

In 1839, Africans that were aboard a ship transporting kidnapped and imported slaves to the USA. While telling the story of the leader Cinque and the 53 Africans as they make their voyage through the Atlantic Ocean and the United States judicial branch. Cinque, who had been kidnapped on his own property, was taken to Cuba, where he was sold to slave buyers Ruiz and Montes bought him and 53 other West African slaves and brought illegally to the United States. After leaving from Cuba to the United States, the slaves rebelled which led to the killing of 1 cook on the ship. Then, since the slaves could not sail the ship, they forced the captains whose lives they spared, to sail them back to West Africa. When the captions didn't sail them back to Africa, they sailed them right into the United States courts. From state courts to the Supreme Court, the slaves worked their way to the final court decision--the slaves were free and not considered cargo of the Amistad. The book did a good job with telling the story and giving a lot of background knowledge, but the facts were being told from a bias point of view.



Jefferson's Sons



"Maddy choked and could only nod, but Eston said, 'We don't want it. That old violin kit.' The violin meant a lot to the sons, especially went Beverly went to go be free not in Monticello.

I read Jefferson's Sons by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. I recommend this book to others because one, you are practically walking in the steps of Thomas Jefferson's sons shoes. First, you walk in Beverly's shoes. Beverly is the oldest son of Thomas Jefferson, also known as Master Jefferson. When he was about 7 years old, he had no idea who his father was, until he put the pieces together and realized that Master Jefferson was his father, and he wasn't aloud to mention anything about it, because his mother was a slave. Next, you walk in Maddy's shoes, which was his nickname. As each boy got older, they found out that Master Jefferson is their father. He was the third to find out, right behind his older *sister*, Harriet. Maddy wanted to learn how to read and write, and no one else really minded about not knowing language arts. He got 16 year old Miss Ellen to teach him. He progressed quite fast. Lastly, you are in Peter's shoes; however, he is not one of Jefferson's sons. He is very cheerful in any hard situation or he can lighten up your day when you are in the baddest of bad moods. Even though they are slaves, Beverley, Harriet, and Eston (a son of Master Jefferson) are considered white because their skin color is closer to white than black, and 7/8ths of their grandparents are white, which by the law, you are considered white, even if you are black. However with Maddy is unsure if he is white or black because his skin color is closer to his mother's skin color, and he wants to be free like how his other siblings are when they reach the age of 21.

