CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Up from Slavery

Booker T. Washington · *1901 · original English text*

I was born a slave on a plantation in Franklin County, Virginia. Washington's 1901 autobiography is a complete life from that plantation childhood through the work at Tuskegee, and it is a public argument about education as well as a memory.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What kind of education can raise a people after bondage, and what does Washington's own rise ask a reader to praise, to question, or to both?

"I was born a slave on a plantation in Franklin County, Virginia."

Chapter I, the opening

The hosted text is Booker T. Washington's Up from Slavery (1901, PG #2376), complete. The opening is exact, including "Franklin County, Virginia." The book is a life and a program: Hampton, Tuskegee, and a public philosophy of work and schooling. Teach it as Washington wrote it, for a wide older band; do not flatten it into a simple slogan, and do not refuse its own claims without first hearing them. Later disagreements with Washington belong to later history, not as a substitute for this book.

KEY CHARACTERS

Booker T. Washington
The writer, born in Franklin County, whose rise and whose school are the book.

the family of the plantation years
The mother and the household of the first bondage.

the teachers at Hampton
The school that gives him a method.

the students at Tuskegee
The community for whom the later life is spent.

BORN IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

> *"I was born a slave on a plantation in Franklin County, Virginia."*
> Chapter I

Grades 7–12

Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Franklin County

CHAPTER I, THE OPENING

He was born a slave on a plantation in Franklin County, Virginia, not quite sure of the exact place or date. The life begins in that uncertainty, as Douglass's also began in a withheld age.

- The first sentence is exact in both witnesses.
- The childhood of bondage is the first measure of the rise.
- This is a 1901 autobiography, complete in this file.

> *"I was born a slave on a plantation in Franklin County, Virginia."*
> Chapter I

02

A Name, and a School

THE EARLY CHAPTERS

Freedom comes; a name is taken; a hunger for letters begins. The road to Hampton is already work.

- The taking of a name is a moral moment, not a mere label.
- The hunger to read should be taught as Washington tells it.
- A wide older band can read this with help.

03

Hampton, and a Method

THE MIDDLE OF THE LIFE

A school that joins labor and learning becomes the pattern he will carry. The method is already a philosophy.

- The method should be taught as Washington describes it, not as a later nickname only.
- Work in this book is a dignity and a program.
- Cite this typography.

04

Tuskegee

THE FOUNDING WORK

A school built almost from nothing, students, brick, and a public life of fundraising and speech. The autobiography becomes the story of an institution.

- The building of Tuskegee is the book's long work, not a footnote.
- The public speeches are part of the life.
- Keep Washington's own sequence.

05

A Public Life, and a Close

THE LATER CHAPTERS

The hosted text is complete through the later public years. The book is a life and an argument; read both, and do not substitute a later controversy for the pages themselves.

- PG #2376, complete, 1901.
- For a wide older band; a life and a program of education after bondage.
- Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

A Rise | Education | Work as Dignity | A School Built | A Public Argument

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 7–12

1. The hosted text is Booker T. Washington's Up from Slavery (1901, Project Gutenberg #2376), complete. The opening is exact: "I was born a slave on a plantation in Franklin County, Virginia."
2. A life and a program of education after bondage, for a wide older band. Teach it as Washington wrote it; do not flatten it into a slogan, and do not substitute later disagreements for the pages themselves.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

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