

*Twelve Years
a Slave*

自由 之心

為奴十二年

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

原著 _ Solomon Northup

改寫 _ David A. Hill


譯者 _ 安卡斯

ABOUT THIS BOOK

For the Student

-  Listen to the story and do some activities on your Audio CD.
-  Talk about the story.
-  Prepare for Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) for schools.

For the Teacher

 A state-of-the-art interactive learning environment with 1000s of free online self-correcting activities for your chosen readers.

Go to our Readers Resource site for information on using readers and downloadable Resource Sheets, photocopiable Worksheets, and Tapescripts.

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For lots of great ideas on using Graded Readers consult [Reading Matters](#), the Teacher's Guide to using Helbling Readers.

Level 5 Structures

Modal verb would	Non-defining relative clauses
I'd love to . . .	Present perfect continuous
Future continuous	Used to / would
Present perfect future	Used to / used to doing
Reported speech / verbs / questions	Second conditional
Past perfect	Expressing wishes and regrets
Defining relative clauses	

Structures from other levels are also included.

CONTENTS



About the Author	4
About the Book	6
Before Reading	8
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Chapter 1 My origins	15
Chapter 2 Two strangers	19
Chapter 3 Chains and darkness	24
Chapter 4 Journey south	28
Chapter 5 Ford and Tibcats	34
Chapter 6 The hot sun	42
Chapter 7 My escape	46
Chapter 8 Epps	51
Chapter 9 The whipping and the dancing	56
Chapter 10 Christmas	60
Chapter 11 The letter	63
Chapter 12 Bass	69
Chapter 13 The letter home	76
Chapter 14 My rescue	80
Chapter 15 Going home	87
<hr/>	
After Reading	92
Test	104
Project Work	108

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Solomon Northup was born in July 1808 in the state¹ of New York in the USA. His father had originally² been a slave³ for the Northup family, but after years of service, they gave him his freedom⁴. After this Solomon's family—father, mother and elder brother Joseph—moved around the area, as free men doing various kinds of work. Solomon's father made sure that his sons had as good an education as possible.

Solomon married in 1829 and started a family as a free man. But, some years later, while he was looking for⁵ work one day, Solomon met two white men, who tricked⁶ him and sold him into slavery⁷ in Washington. Solomon then lived as a slave



Solomon Northup

for twelve years until he was rescued⁸ by the lawyer Henry B. Northup—from the same family which had freed his father. This book is the story of Solomon Northup's twelve terrible years as a slave.

Slavery in the USA dates back to British colonial⁹ times, and was recognized¹⁰ by thirteen states after the Declaration of Independence¹¹ in 1776. Black people were first brought from Africa to the USA where they were sold as slaves to work on tobacco, sugar and cotton plantations¹² in the slave states. A slave state was a state in which slavery was legal and a free state was one in which slavery was illegal¹³. Slaves had no rights and were seen by their white owners as little more than animals or machines¹⁴. Slavery was not abolished¹⁵ in all states of the USA until 1865.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 state [steɪt] (n.) 州 | 8 rescue [ˈreskjʊ] (v.) 營救 |
| 2 originally [əˈrɪdʒənəlɪ] (adv.) 起初；原來 | 9 colonial [kəˈlɒnjəl] (a.) 殖民的 |
| 3 slave [sleɪv] (n.) 奴隸 | 10 recognize [ˈrekəg,naɪz] (v.) 認可 |
| 4 freedom [ˈfrɪdəm] (n.) 自由 | 11 Declaration of Independence (美國) 獨立宣言 |
| 5 look for 尋找 | 12 plantation [plænˈteɪʃən] (n.) 農場；耕地 |
| 6 trick [trɪk] (v.) 詐騙 | 13 illegal [ɪˈlɪɡl] (a.) 非法的 |
| 7 slavery [ˈsleɪvəri] (n.) 奴隸身分；奴役 | 14 machine [məˈʃɪn] (n.) 機器 |
| | 15 abolish [əˈbɒlɪʃ] (v.) 廢除；廢止 |

ABOUT THE BOOK

Twelve Years a Slave follows the story of a free man, Solomon Northup, from 1841, when he was illegally sold into slavery, from the initial¹ period as a slave to William Ford, through the increasingly cruel times under John M. Tibbeats, and then with Edwin Epps, from whom Solomon was eventually² rescued in 1853.

Solomon paints a clear picture of the life of a slave, the endless work and unfair treatment³, where people are generally treated as property⁴, without any humanity⁵. The book gives details of the slaves' daily duties⁶, as well as⁷ the particular things which happened to Solomon, including his attempts to escape⁸.

In May 1853, Solomon Northup published⁹ his story. It was edited¹⁰ by David Wilson. Solomon wanted readers to understand the situation¹¹ of black slaves in the slave states of the USA. In his preface¹², the editor, David Wilson, said that he firmly¹³ believed that the story of Solomon's

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 initial [ɪˈniːʃəl] (a.) 最初的 | 5 humanity [hjuˈmænəti] (n.) 人性；人道 |
| 2 eventually [ɪˈventʃuəli] (n.) 最後地；終於地 | 6 duty [ˈdjuːti] (n.) (複) 職責 |
| 3 treatment [ˈtrɪtmənt] (n.) 對待 | 7 as well as 而且；還 |
| 4 property [ˈprɒpəti] (n.) 財產；所有物 | 8 escape [əˈskeɪp] (v.) 逃跑；逃脫 |
| | 9 publish [ˈpʌblɪʃ] (v.) 出版 |
| | 10 edit [ˈɛdɪt] (v.) 編輯 |

twelve years of slavery was true. He checked it as far as he could, although it was not possible to get evidence¹⁴ about everything.

Wilson stated that Solomon's "fortune"¹⁵ during his time as a slave, lay in the fact that he was owned by several different masters. Some showed humanity, while others only cruelty¹⁶. And indeed, Solomon writes of these people with either gratitude¹⁷ or bitterness¹⁸.

In 2012 *Twelve Years a Slave* was made into a film directed by Steve McQueen. It was mostly filmed around New Orleans, Louisiana, in the summer of 2012 using four historic¹⁹ cotton plantations for the location²⁰. The film was first released²¹ in 2013 and it has won several major awards²².

11 situation [ˌsɪtʃuˈeɪʃən] (n.)
情況；處境

12 preface [ˈpreɪfɪs] (n.) 序言；前言

13 firmly [ˈfɜːmlɪ] (adv.) 堅固地

14 evidence [ˈeɪvədəns] (n.) 證據

15 fortune [ˈfɔːrtʃən] (n.) 好運；幸運

16 cruelty [ˈkruəlti] (n.) 殘酷行為

17 gratitude [ˈgræʊtɪdʒ] (n.)
感激之情；感恩

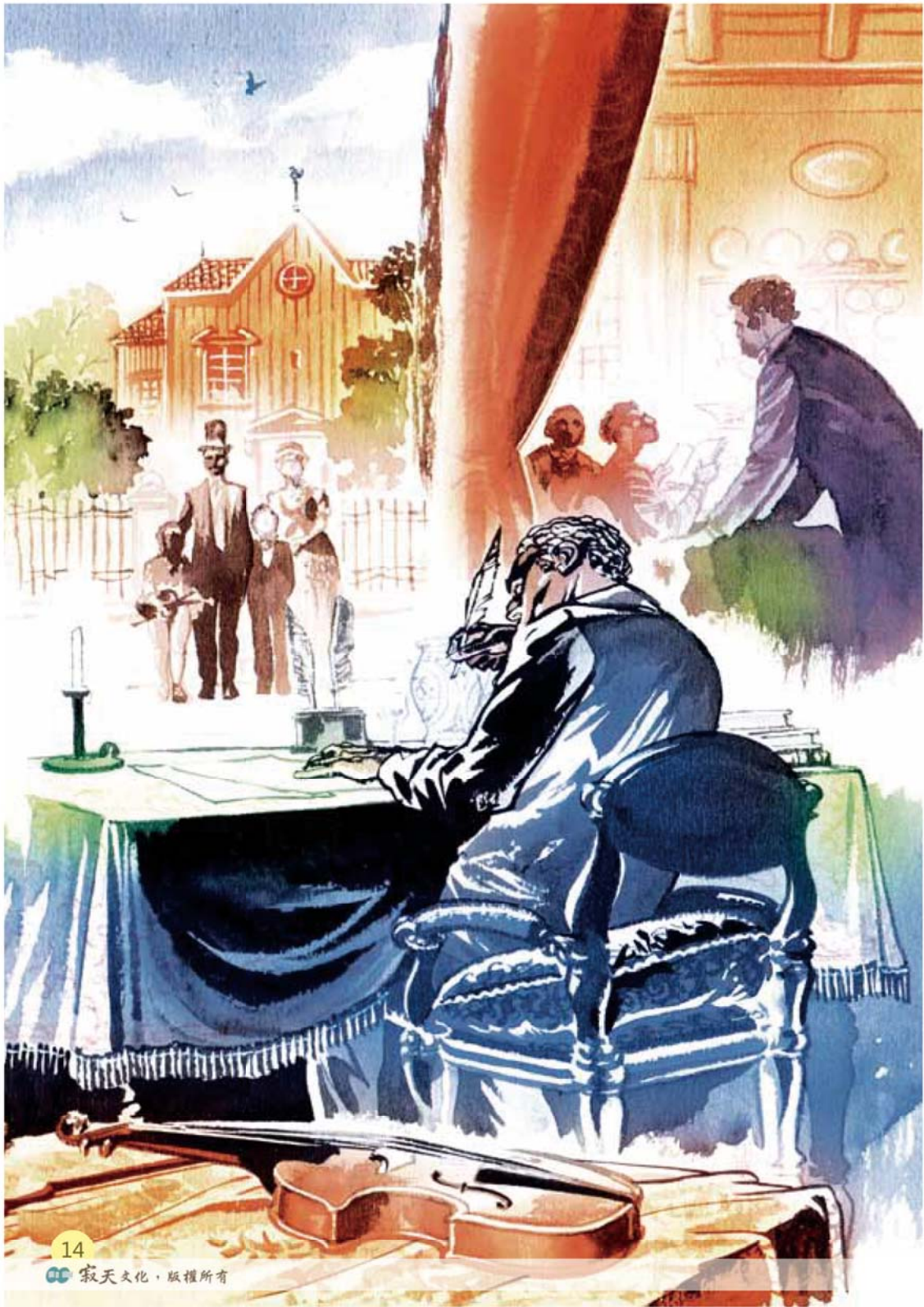
18 bitterness [ˈbɪtənɪs] (n.) 痛苦；悲痛

19 historic [hɪsˈtɔːrɪk] (a.) 歷史上著名的

20 location [ləˈkeɪʃən] (n.) 場所

21 release [rɪˈliːs] (v.) 發行

22 award [əˈwɔːd] (n.) 獎；獎項



Chapter 1


My origins

5) *My name is Solomon Northup and I was born a free man. I lived free for thirty years, then I was kidnapped¹ and sold as a slave. I lived as a slave for twelve years until I was rescued and again became a free man. This is the story of what happened to me.*

My father was a slave and worked for the Northup family in the state of New York. When old Mr Northup died (around 1800), he gave my father his freedom. My father then took his family name and became Mintus Northup. The Northup family always took an interest in² us, and it is because of Henry B. Northup, a famous lawyer and relative of the original Northup family, that I am now free again.

After my father was granted³ his freedom, he worked on many different farms in New York State doing agricultural⁴ work with my mother and my elder brother.

- 1 kidnap ['kɪdnæp] (n.) 綁架
- 2 take an interest in . . . 對……有興趣
- 3 grant [grænt] (v.) 准予；授予
- 4 agricultural [ˌægrɪ'kʌltʃərəl] (a.) 農業的

 I was born in July 1808. We lived happily together. Because of my father's ideas and teaching, we got a better education than most African Americans.

Our father also often talked to us about his earlier life as a slave. He was never treated badly as a slave but he thought it important for us to understand the system of slavery and what it meant for our people.

I started doing farm work with my father from a young age, but in my free time, I studied, and also played the violin, which was my greatest passion¹. My father died in 1820.

In 1829 I married Anne Hampton, who was a free woman of mixed origins². I then took a series of different manual³ jobs to make extra money. These jobs meant I often traveled, and I even visited Canada once.

We eventually had enough money to take a farm and then I started agricultural work. Anne often worked as a cook⁴, and I was frequently in demand⁵ to play my violin at local dances in the evenings, so for a time we lived comfortably but simply on what we both earned.

In the hope of earning more money, in 1834 we moved to Saratoga Springs, in New York State. I worked as a carriage⁶ driver, and Anne cooked at a nearby hotel. I also earned extra money playing the violin, and doing occasional⁷ manual work.

1 passion [ˈpæʃən] (n.) 熱情

2 origin [ˈɔrɪdʒɪn] (n.) 血統

3 manual [ˈmænjʊəl] (a.) 體力的

4 cook [kʊk] (n.) 廚師

5 in demand 非常需要的；受歡迎的

6 carriage [ˈkærɪdʒ] (n.) 馬車

7 occasional [əˈkeɪʒənəl] (a.) 偶而的