

# Frederick Douglass

A Bibliography. Prepared by Richard Bell (rjbell@umd.edu)

## 'Frederick Douglass,' a poem by Robert Hayden

When it is finally ours, this freedom, this liberty, this beautiful  
and terrible thing, needful to man as air,  
usable as earth; when it belongs at last to all,  
when it is truly instinct, brain matter, diastole, systole,  
reflex action; when it is finally won; when it is more  
than the gaudy mumbo jumbo of politicians:  
this man, this Douglass, this former slave, this Negro  
beaten to his knees, exiled, visioning a world  
where none is lonely, none hunted, alien,  
this man, superb in love and logic, this man  
shall be remembered. Oh, not with statues' rhetoric,  
not with legends and poems and wreaths of bronze alone,  
but with the lives grown out of his life, the lives  
fleshing his dream of the beautiful, needful thing.

## Primary Sources

Douglass's very best writings include: 'To My Old Master' (1848), 'What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?' (1852), 'The Dred Scott Decisions' (1857), 'Capt. John Brown Not Insane' (1859), 'Men of Color, to Arms!' (1863), 'The Freedmen's Monument to Abraham Lincoln' (1876), & 'Lessons of the Hour' (1894).

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## Secondary Sources

A selection of books that informed my talk and that are worth your time.

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