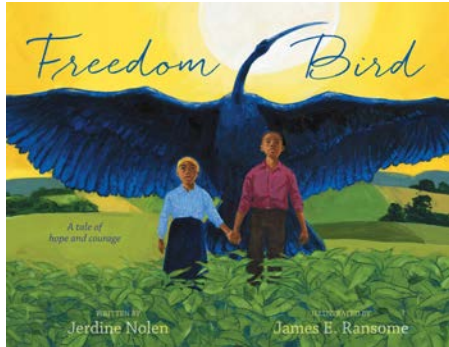


Story Time:

Family Activity Sheet

Celebrate Juneteenth with a reading of **Freedom Bird: A Tale of Hope and Courage** by author Jerdine Nolen.



Synopsis: In this inspiring story in the tradition of American black folktales, a brother and sister who are enslaved are inspired by a majestic and mysterious bird to escape to freedom.

[Click here to purchase the book](#)

Discussion

After Reading the Book:

- What event happens at the beginning of the story to John and Millicent's family?
- What did John and Millicent's parents teach them about freedom?
- Who did the siblings help back to health and hid from the plantation owner?
- What did the children do after helping their friend?



Reginald F. Lewis Museum Connection

Enslaved black people in the United States celebrated their freedom in many different ways following the Civil War. In Maryland, Union soldier **Nathaniel Hopkins** who was a former enslaved person, celebrated the end of slavery with a parade in his hometown, Trappe, Maryland. The **Uncle Nace Parade** is still celebrated today on the Eastern Shore.

Juneteenth is also a well known holiday in the black community celebrating the freedom of enslaved people. This holiday celebrated on June 19 is sometimes called Emancipation or Freedom Day in some states. Juneteenth is a combination of June and "nineteenth". It is celebrated with barbecue, singing songs, reading poems, and celebrating the positive contributions of black people to this country.

Family Activities

Create a Juneteenth meal collage

Using a paper plate and drawings or photos of popular Juneteenth foods create a celebratory meal.

You Will Need:

Paper Plate
Construction paper
Markers/Crayons
Glue stick/tape
Scissors

Instructions:

1. Using images from magazine or other print materials, cut and paste images of food that would be served on Juneteenth to the center of your paper plate.
2. Draw a circle around the food pictures and decorate the outer rim of the paper plate with markers or crayons.
3. Take a large sheet of construction paper (bigger than your paper plate) and paste your plate to the center of your construction paper.
4. Draw a fork, knife, and spoon next to your paper plate. Add pictures or shapes that celebrate black culture or what freedom means to you.



Children's Books about Juneteenth

- [All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom](#) by [Angela Johnson](#)
- [Juneteenth for Mazie](#) by [Floyd Cooper](#)
- [Juneteenth Jamboree](#) by [Carole Boston Weatherford](#)
- [Juneteenth](#) by [Vaunda Micheaux Nelson](#)



Many of the foods eaten on Juneteenth are red in color which symbolizes resilience from bondage in the African American community. Popular foods include red velvet cake, strawberry pie, hot links, watermelon and hot sauce. Barbecue, greens, and black eyed peas are also usually eaten on June 19th.

Family Activities

Learn about an African Country

Most black people who were enslaved in the United States were either taken themselves or the descendant of someone taken from somewhere in Africa. Today, Africa is made up of 54 countries that encompass many different ethnic groups. Choose one of the African countries below to learn about.



Family Activities

Create a flag

After learning about one of the African countries, use the template below to recreate their flag.

