

# Bookfolio for Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave

Author: [Virginia Hamilton](#)

First Publication Date: 1988

Publisher: Knopf

ISBN: 0394981855

Recommended for: [Grades 4-6](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Historical Fiction](#)

MultiCulture: African American

**Story Summary:** Anthony Burns, the "Boston Lion," was the slave that fled from bondage in Virginia to freedom in Boston, only to be arrested for theft on May 24, 1854. He was soon charged with being a runaway slave. Abolitionists and their supporters rallied to the cry of injustice. With the pen, the law, and with force they attempted to prevent his former owner from returning Anthony Burns to bondage and certain retaliation. All efforts failed, including the brilliant defense of Richard Henry Dana, the author of TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST.

Riots, bloodshed, and death resulted from the calling of armed troops to prevent all attempts to rescue Anthony Burns from his courthouse prison. The hearing ended in a ruling in favor of his former owner, Charles F. Suttle. After severe mistreatment and humiliation, which included being placed in a cage and put on public display and mocked, an opportunity arose for Burns' abolitionist friends to purchase him from a new owner and to bring him out of slavery. He subsequently studied at Oberlin College, (1857-62), and realized his dream of being a minister to his people. He became pastor of a Negro Baptist church in St. Catherine, Canada, where he died at the young age of twenty-eight, having fallen victim to the physical and mental abuse of the years of his bondage. Anthony Burns was one of many who came to symbolize the black American's perseverance in obtaining freedom.

**Read-aloud Recommendation:** Chapter 2, "Spring 1839", pages 8-18.

**The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:**

**R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing**

Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave - Independent Activities	Skills
1. <a href="#">The Biographer's Craft</a> (Distinguishing fact from fiction)	R , W
2. <a href="#">The Times of Anthony Burns</a> (Writing an essay)	S , W
3. <a href="#">Eyewitness Account</a> (Writing a news article)	W
4. <a href="#">Courtroom Artist</a> (Drawing a picture)	D , S , W
5. <a href="#">The Defenders</a> (Writing a report)	R , W
6. <a href="#">Tracing Historic Footprints</a> (Making a map)	D , S , W
Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave - Group Activities	Skills
1. <a href="#">Comparing Biographies</a> (Discussing biographies)	S
2. <a href="#">A Brief Biography</a> (Writing a brief biographical account)	R , S , W
3. <a href="#">A Biographical Time Line</a> (Making a time line)	D , W
4. <a href="#">The Courtroom Scene</a> (Dramatizing a story event)	R , S
5. <a href="#">The Biographer as Researcher</a> (Writing a report)	R , S , W
6. <a href="#">"Let's Talk About..."</a> (Discussing the story)	L , S

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