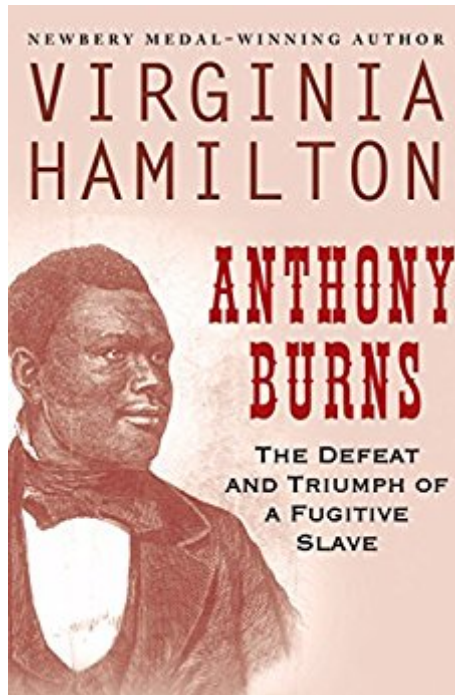


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# Anthony Burns: The Defeat And Triumph Of A Fugitive Slave



## Synopsis

The true story of a young man struggling for freedom at the dawn of the Civil War—Anthony Burns is a runaway slave who has just started to build a life for himself in Boston. Then his former owner comes to town to collect him. Anthony won't go willingly, though, and people across the city step forward to make sure he's not taken. Based on the true story of a man who stood up against the Fugitive Slave Law, Hamilton's gripping account follows the battle in the streets and in the courts to keep Burns a citizen of Boston—a battle that is the prelude to the nation's bloody Civil War.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This 1993 non-fiction biography addresses slavery in the U.S., through the spell-binding story of Anthony Burns, who was captured and tried in 1854 Boston as a fugitive slave. Chapters alternate between 1854 and the 1840s, when Burns spent his boyhood and youth as the slave of Virginia plantation-owner Charles Suttle. In 35 children's books, the late Virginia Hamilton (1936-2002) frequently focused on themes of slavery and inequality. No dry or fictional account, this riveting read-aloud elucidates 19th century heroism culminating in a dramatic denouement before Burns' untimely death at 28 in Canada on July 27, 1862. The epilogue covers repercussions to Boston

abolitionists and others who helped him. The book initiates fine in-class discussions of current-day slavery and abolitionists at Christian Solidarity International, iAbolish (the American anti-Slavery Group) and other groups who seek to end the practice, forever. The story opens with Burns' Boston abduction. His flashbacks transport readers to his early years in Virginia; these crescendo in his flight from slavery and trial. Hamilton sets historical figures in context and invigorates their fiery sermons, posters and political gatherings with life. She fleshes out the details of Burns' life, from his point of view. He experiences hardships but dares to hope. His story includes suspense and drama that gets children's attention. Burns suffered horribly. For example, he was once confined for four months to a slave jail in North Carolina, his arms and legs always shackled. In solitary confinement with inadequate hygiene and food, he became seriously ill. Still, Anthony Burns went on to achieve great things. The book infuses children with the indignation of the abolitionists here portrayed.

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