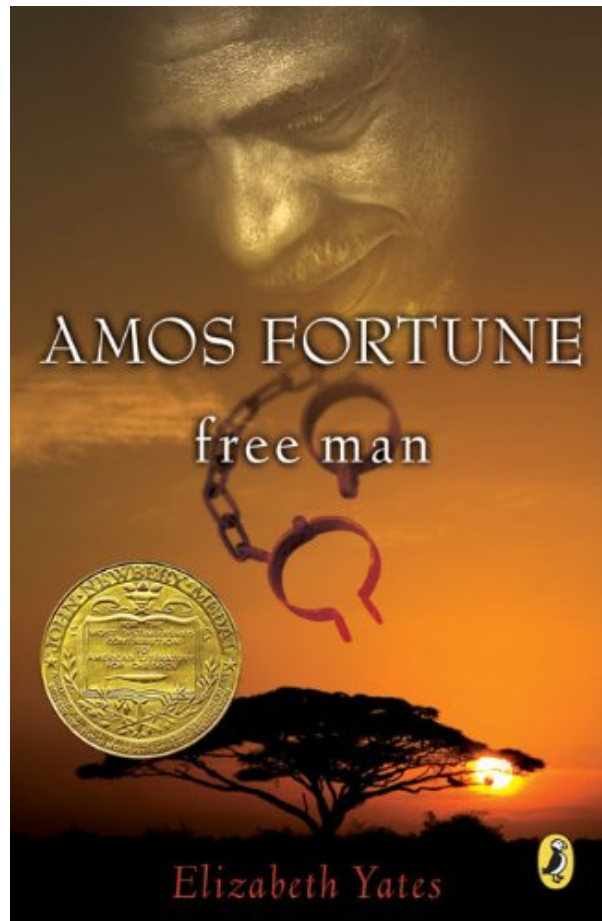
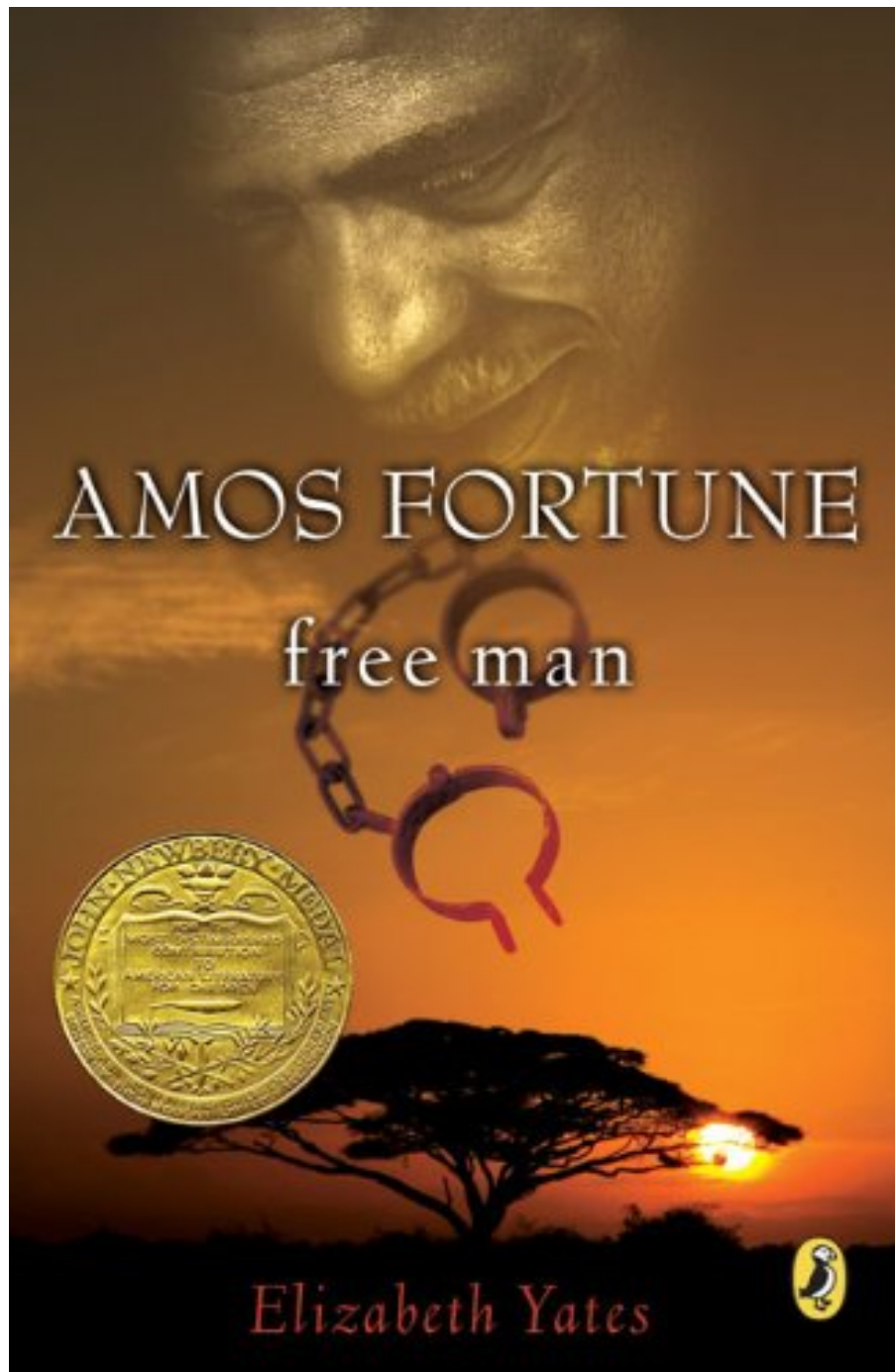


**AMOS FORTUNE, FREE MAN (NEWBERY LIBRARY, PUFFIN) BY ELIZABETH YATES**



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## Review

Praise for Amos Fortune, Free Man

"The moving story of a life dedicated to the fight for freedom."—Booklist

## About the Author

Elizabeth Yates (1905–2001), prolific American author, won the 1951 Newbery Medal for her novel Amos Fortune, Free Man. She also received a Newbery Honor in 1944 for Mountain Born.

Nora Unwin (1907–1982) illustrated more than one hundred books for children.

## From AudioFile

Elizabeth Yates deservedly won the Newbery Award for AMOS FORTUNE, FREE MAN in the pre-politically correct days of 1951. This carefully researched biography brings to life a man and era overlooked in history books. Born a prince in Africa, At-mun was captured at age 15, sold at a Boston slave auction, given the name Amos, taught to read, and trained as a tanner. Six decades later, he buys his freedom and, eventually, the freedom of others. Ray Childs's deep, melodious voice breathes life into a man who maintained his princely dignity through the indignities of slavery. Hearing the documents of manumission, the process by which a slave could be liberated, read in the formal language of the Colonial period underlines the authenticity of the story. N.E.M. © AudioFile 2007, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

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A Newbery Medal Winner

When Amos Fortune was only fifteen years old, he was captured by slave traders and brought to Massachusetts, where he was sold at auction. Although his freedom had been taken, Amos never lost his dignity and courage. For 45 years, Amos worked as a slave and dreamed of freedom. And, at age 60, he finally began to see those dreams come true.

"The moving story of a life dedicated to the fight for freedom."—Booklist

- Sales Rank: #34633 in Books
- Brand: Puffin
- Published on: 1989-05-01
- Released on: 1989-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.75" h x .50" w x 5.06" l, .34 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

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## Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A beloved hero

By M. Heiss

What an inspiration this book is. "Amos Fortune" is the Newbery Winner from 1950, and it is a worthwhile read. Amos himself is dignified, admirable, and solidly written. This book is an inspiration to children -- a life quietly lived pursuing the goal of freedom and self-sufficiency, while helping others as much as possible.

Set in New England in late colonial/revolutionary/early American times. This book has it all -- plot, action, sadness, courage. It sets an example for kids who need to look outside themselves for the meaning of life. My favorite character was Violet, that encouraging, supportive industrious, strong wife. But then again, I'm a mom.

Amos Fortune belongs on your child's bookshelf.

Parent notes: a hard look at the capture and captivity of African blacks for slavery in the New World, the middle passage, violence against blacks. Uplifting book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Highly recommended!

By evie2400books

I used Amos Fortune with my seventh and eighth grade literature classes. This was my first year using this book and I was concerned that it would not capture the modern teenage imagination. I was so pleased by their reactions. They loved the book, and I loved introducing them to well-written literature. I love the character qualities presented in this book. I will be teaching this one for years to come.

12 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

American Academy: Essential Reading for Youth

By B. T. Davis

This book is required reading for American Academy Middle School students, but is recommended for people, ages 12 and up, who are trying to understand early American life and the subject of slavery, particularly in the northern states.

"Amos Fortune" is a true story about a young African prince torn from his family, people, and homeland. He undergoes a process of dehumanization, including a horrific slave-ship sea crossing, before being sold as a slave into first one and then another Massachusetts family; so we see two complete portraits of slave life. After a while, he buys his own and his wife's freedom and travels to picturesque New Hampshire where he builds a homestead and a legacy for himself. In so doing perhaps he plants seeds that help bring an end to that "peculiar institution," slavery.

Beautifully told by Ms. Yates, we see Amos learn to read and become a faithful Christian. His childlike dream to buy his sister's freedom grows into a mature buying of the freedom of women he loves. He masters the tanning trade, which we learn about. We experience his strong and majestic character in overlooking a benighted age's slights and building his own freehold homestead, near "his" mountain, in this free country he loves. Amos Fortune is an outstanding man worthy of imitation. His story will never die or grow old.

All American young people should read this book. It, along with: "April Morning," by Howard Fast; "A Light in the Forest," by Conrad Richter; "First Lady of Faith and Courage: Abigail Adams," by Evelyn Witter; and "The Autobiography," by Benjamin Franklin; paint a multifaceted view of the particular pains,

prejudices and daily life in northern colonial America from the perspective of, respectively, black citizens, traditional revolutionary families, American Indians, women, and a particular famous artisan-scientist-inventor-statesman whose life spanned and intertwined itself with the century of America's birth.

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