



The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, Or Gustavus Vassa, The African / Written By Himself

by Olaudah Equiano · Best for B2–C1 (Upper intermediate–Advanced)

Read-along audiobook · B2–C1

Written and published by Equiano himself in 1789, this autobiography moves from his childhood in what is now Nigeria through enslavement, sea voyages, and eventually his purchase of his own freedom. The prose is formal 18th-century English, but Equiano's voice is direct and personal, which keeps even dense passages engaging. It is an important text for understanding both history and the range of English narrative styles.

What you'll practise

- First-person past narrative across decades of a life story
- 18th-century formal vocabulary (commerce, navigation, providence)
- Embedded reported speech when Equiano recounts conversations
- Tap any archaic or maritime term to see its modern meaning

How to read it — free

Listen to the full narration while you read along — every word above your level is highlighted in time with the voice and explained on tap. No signup, nothing to install.

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