

# Africa Is My Home

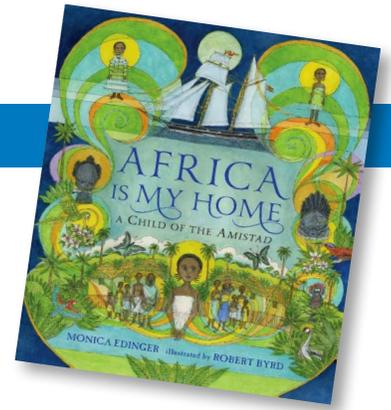
## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Perseverance, African American History, Slavery

**Book Brief:** Magulu is only nine years old when she is taken by slave traders and brought to the Americas. She is on board the *Amistad* when its passengers rise up and overthrow their captors, but her journey to freedom—and back home to Africa—has only begun.

**Author:**  
Monica Edinger

**Illustrator:**  
Robert Byrd



## TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, build background:** What does your child know about slavery? In 1839, when this book begins, it was legal to own slaves in parts of the US and other countries.

Human beings were stolen from their homes in Africa and taken overseas to be sold and enslaved.

**While reading, take your time:** This is a long book that deals with serious issues. You might want to read it a section at a time.

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Why was Magulu stuck in the US for so long?
- ◆ Why did she want to get an education?
- ◆ How would you have felt if you were Magulu?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### HOME COOKING

Nothing reminds you of home more than a favorite family recipe. Make a special meal with your child. Teach them how to make it. Explain where the recipe comes from and how you learned to make it. Share stories or memories involving the recipe.

### CIRCLING HOME

Materials: white paper, pencil, markers or crayons

Look at the beautiful pictures on the pages where Magulu is dreaming. Pick one thing that reminds you of home—a family member, friend, place, etc. In the center of the paper, write a short poem about that thing and why it's important to you. Draw a circle of pictures around that poem, like in the book. The pictures in the circle should show the person or thing you chose.

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

Materials: paper, pencil, envelope, stamps; or computer access

Stay close to your family by sending a letter or card to a relative you don't see very often, like a grandparent or an aunt or uncle. Let them know what's happening in your life and ask what's happening in theirs. Tell them what you're learning in school—and about the great books you've read lately! You can send an email instead, or visit [www.123greetings.com](http://www.123greetings.com) to send a free e-card.

### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit [www.inmotionaame.org](http://www.inmotionaame.org) for more information about the transatlantic slave trade and other African and African American migrations.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PEOPLE WHO WERE ENSLAVED

*Dave the Potter*, Laban Carrick Hill (2010)  
*Henry's Freedom Box*, Ellen Levine (2007)  
*More Than Anything Else*, Marie Bradby (1995)

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