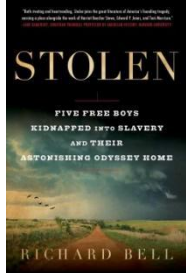




Community Raving About Books

(C.R.A.B.) Book Club Guide



***Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home* by Richard Bell**

Simon & Schuster, 2019; 318 pages/audio 7 hours 24 minutes

“Rigorously researched, heartfelt, and dramatically concise, Bell's investigation illuminates the role slavery played in the systemic inequalities that still confront Black Americans.”

–Booklist, 10/1/2019

Summary

A gripping and true story about five boys who were kidnapped in the North and smuggled into slavery in the Deep South -- and their daring attempt to escape and bring their captors to justice, reminiscent of *Twelve Years A Slave* and *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*.

Author Information

Richard Bell teaches Early American history at the University of Maryland. He has received several teaching prizes and major research fellowships including the National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar Award. His first book, *We Shall Be No More: Suicide and Self-Government in the Newly United States*, was published in 2012.

If you liked this book, try these!

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad by Eric Foner
Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo" by Zora Neale Hurston
Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northrup

Find more title suggestions and author information from our Books and Literature Online

Resources: <https://ww1.pgcmis.info/website/online-resources-432#BooksandLiterature>

Check out our other C.R.A.B. book club kits at: <https://ww1.pgcmis.info/website/4558>

See the next page for suggested discussion questions



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Sample Discussion Questions for *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home* by Richard Bell

Source: Selection Department, Prince George's County Memorial Library System

Why do you think the "Reverse Underground Railroad" is less known about than the Underground Railroad?

What parallels do you see between unenslaved Black people in 1860 who were denied rights and citizenship, and the refugee or undocumented worker populations of today?

Unenslaved Black people were in constant danger of being re-enslaved. Are there parallels between their need for constant vigilance, and the need of African Americans today to be always wary of being profiled and discriminated against?

Why do you think Black people were willing to help kidnap other Black people?

Why did some white slaveholders sue illegal slave traders?

What examples of backlash to social justice and civil rights efforts have you seen in modern times that remind you of the southern backlash against efforts to pass anti-kidnapping laws prior to the Civil War?