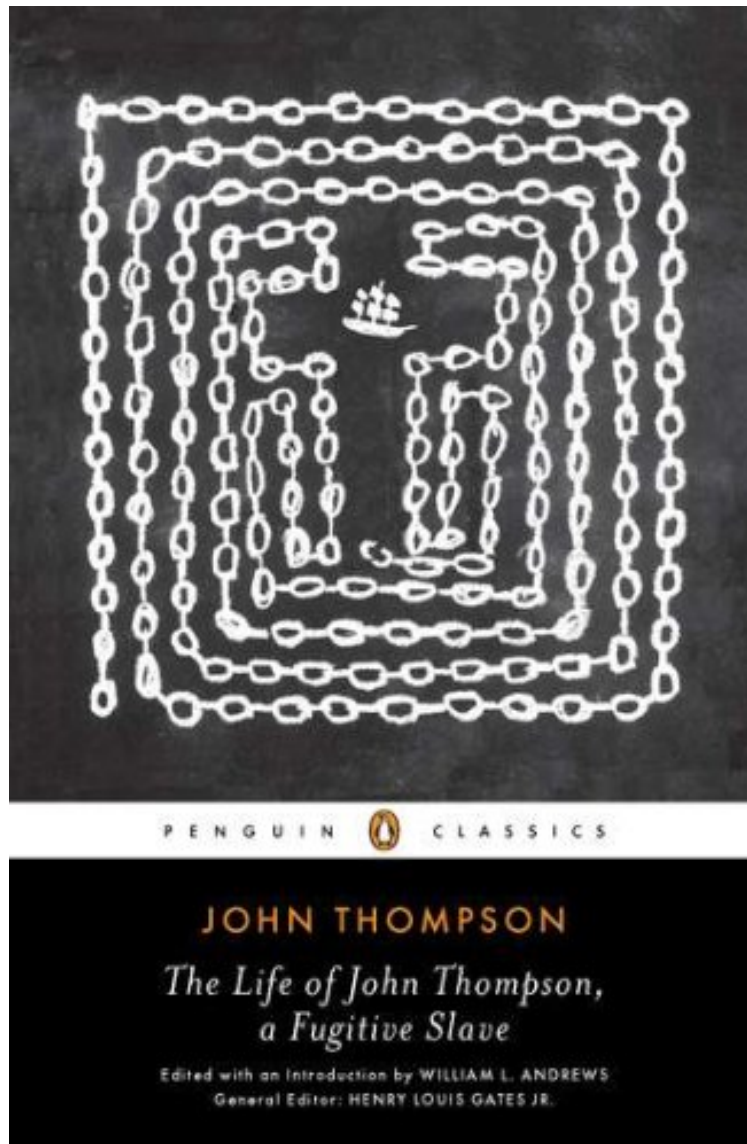


(Mobile book) *The Life of John Thompson, a Fugitive Slave: Containing His History of 25 Years in Bondage, and His Providential Escape* (Penguin Classics)

The Life of John Thompson, a Fugitive Slave: Containing His History of 25 Years in Bondage, and His Providential Escape (Penguin Classics)

John Thompson

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John Thompson : The Life of John Thompson, a Fugitive Slave: Containing His History of 25 Years in Bondage, and His Providential Escape (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised *The Life of John Thompson, a Fugitive Slave: Containing His History of 25 Years in Bondage, and His Providential Escape* (Penguin Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Stewart Cohen
Important historical document
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Addition to American Slave Narratives
By Michael J. Dittman
John Thompson was born into slavery in Maryland in 1812. He learned to read (covertly), saw horrific things and suffered terrible abuse. He escaped, made his way to the American Northeast, married, then went to sea for two years to escape slave catchers. However, as its blurb suggests, the real important/interest of John Thompson's narrative isn't the story he tells about American Slavery. There are, I would suggest, narratives available that better illustrate America's Peculiar Institution. The reason why Thompson's narrative is important is the way in which he frames his story. There's no better way to put it than William Andrews does in the introduction - it's a slave's Pilgrim's Progress. In this way, the truth of the book, that is to say its verifiable facts, figures, and dates are much less important than the universal truths that Thompson reveals about man, faith and the search for all sorts of freedom.

The unique narrative of a slave who fled to freedom and sailed aboard a whaling vessel John Thompson was born into slavery on a Maryland plantation in 1812. Originally published in 1856, *The Life of John Thompson, a Fugitive Slave* chronicles his enslavement, his escape, and his life in the North, where he lived as a free man until fear of recapture drove him to flee once again - this time to sea aboard the *Milwood*, a whaling vessel. The only fugitive slave narrator to report a whaling voyage, Thompson crafted from his seafaring experience an allegorical sermon that caps his *Life* and renders it a kind of African American Pilgrim's Progress, as well as a narrative of struggle with, escape from, and triumph over American slavery. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

About the Author
Henry Louis Gates, Jr. was Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and Africana Studies at Cornell University, and also tenured at Yale, Duke, and Harvard, where he was appointed W.E.B. DuBois professor of humanities in 1991. Professor Gates is the author of *Figures in Black: Words, Signs, and the Racial Self*, *Wonders of the African World*, *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of African-American Literary Criticism*, *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man*, *Loose Cannons: Notes on the Culture Wars*, and *Colored People: A Memoir*. With Cornel West, he co-wrote *The African American Century: How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country and The Future of the Race*. He is also the editor of the critically-acclaimed edition of *Our Nig*, an annotated reprint of Harriet E. Wilson's 1859 novel, *The Slave's Narrative* (with the late Charles T. Davis), *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African-American Experience*, *Six Women's Slave Narratives*, and *In the House of Oshugbo: Critical Essays on Wole Soyinka*. He is a recipient of the MacArthur Prize.