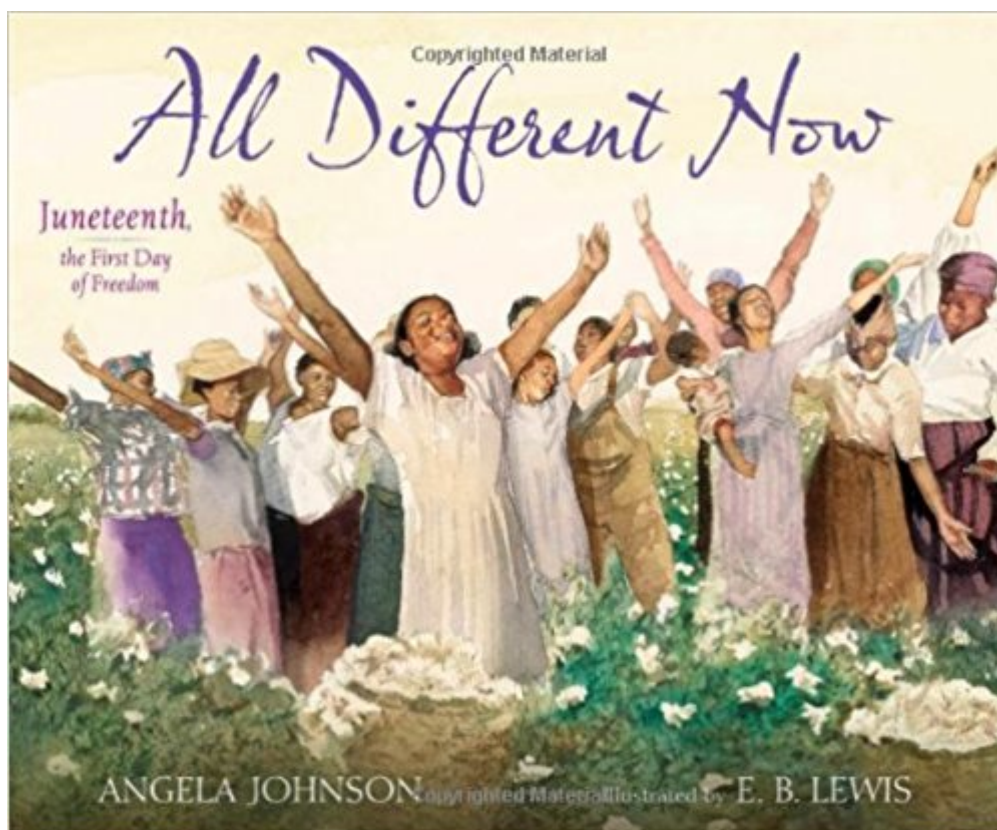


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# All Different Now: Juneteenth, The First Day Of Freedom



## Synopsis

Experience the joy of Juneteenth in this celebration of freedom from the award-winning team of Angela Johnson and E.B. Lewis. Through the eyes of one little girl, >tells the story of the first Juneteenth, the day freedom finally came to the last of the slaves in the South. Since then, the observance of June 19 as African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond. This stunning picture book includes notes from the author and illustrator, a timeline of important dates, and a glossary of relevant terms. Told in Angela Johnson's signature melodic style and brought to life by E.B. Lewis's striking paintings, *All Different Now* is a joyous portrait of the dawn breaking on the darkest time in our nation's history.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD830L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (May 6, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068987376X

ISBN-13: 978-0689873768

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #750,834 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Era](#) #458 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Non-religious](#) #744 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#)

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

Gr 3 Up • Previous picture books about Juneteenth (the holiday celebrating the day slaves were freed in Texas two years after the rest of the country) have focused on contemporary children discovering this quirk of history. Valerie Wesley's *Freedom's Gifts* (S. & S., 1997) and Carole Boston Weatherford's *Juneteenth Jamboree* (Lee & Low, 1995) fall into that category. Johnson imagines what it would be like to be a slave one minute and a free person the next. Spare text, structured as free verse, hones in on the smell of honeysuckle and breakfast routines as the

day begins, like any other. The titular phrase appears three times: first to build suspense, then to indicate the earthshaking import of the message spreading from the port, and, finally, to reflect on the consequences. Lewis paints details not mentioned. The protagonist is a girl living in the slave quarters with her siblings and mother. They are working in the cotton fields when the news arrives. Skillful watercolor renderings depict nuanced changes in lighting and focus, thereby capturing individual responses to a community's new reality—from incredulity and quiet contemplation to rapture. Occasional panels indicate passing time; the brilliant clarity of the fields at noon fades to a green-blue gauze over the revelers heading home from a late-night celebration. A time line, glossary, overview, list of websites, and notes by author and illustrator provide deeper understanding. With a narrative notable for its understated simplicity and lack of judgment, this title allows readers to draw their own conclusions. An affecting entrance to a challenging conversation.

—Wendy Lukehart, District of Columbia Public Library

On June 19, 1865, a young slave girl and her family go about their daily routine, unaware that their lives are about to change. They wake to the smell of honeysuckle before they get ready to work all day in the hot fields of Texas. Before long, word spreads even to them: "We were all / now and forever free / and things / would be / all different now." Thus begin the celebrations that will be commemorated as Juneteenth, the day Texas slaves finally learned about their rights as freed people, a full two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Rich, subdued watercolors convey the celebrations with dignity and awe. Each page shows the slaves as a collective people, finally seeing a brighter future within reach. Johnson's attached verse enables younger readers to see the momentous nature of this date, while back matter appropriate for older readers provides a time line and other important factual references. A worthy addition to any collection on the topic. Grades 1-3. --Courtney Jones

This book is simple...perfect...important. I recommend it to anyone who would like to touch - even for a moment - what that day could have been like for so many people learning that they were now free to just be. Though there are just a few words on each page, which is truly enough, combined with the stunning artwork, you will get lost in time and know that there is so much more you can learn with research and curiosity about what Juneteenth really means. The illustrator mentions in his notes a book by Ralph Ellison - "Juneteenth" that I sadly admit I never heard of. I say sadly because this should have been something we all were required to read, along with many other books growing up. I'll buy that book next of course and cannot wait to discover each page. Many thanks to Angela

Johnson and E.B. Lewis for thinking about writing this book, taking the time to write and illustrate this book and having the courage to do whatever work they did to make it come to life. Only these two know how many times they were turned down by publishers, or discouraged to bother writing about a topic that seems unpopular in today's world. The fact that they saw this project through is worth giving praise to. Thank you - thank you - thank you.

I bought this originally to read to my class for Black History Month, and it is now among my favorite Read Aloud books. The illustrations are absolutely lovely, and the story is heart warming. I highly recommend reading this story.

A fantastic picture book about the Emancipation Proclamation. The illustrations are absolutely wonderful and the spare but lyrical text perfectly complements the visuals. Any school/public library should have this in their collection.

Great story.

Summary: June 19, 1865 is supposedly the date that all the slaves in the United States finally learned they were free. This story tells about that day through the eyes of a little girl who watches those around her, young and old, as they learn the news. Pros: This story is incredibly moving, with a perfect marriage between the text and the illustrations. This would be a great catalyst for kids to imagine what this day must have been like. What would younger people have dreamed of? What would older people think, to realize their children and grandchildren would be free after living a life of slavery? Also, why did it take two and a half years for all the slaves to learn about the Emancipation Proclamation? This year marks the 150th anniversary of Juneteenth, just in case you want to celebrate. Cons: Good luck reading this without getting a lump in your throat.

This is one of the most beautiful non-fiction picture books I have ever seen. Lyrical language engages the reader and listener from the very first word. Illustrations are filled with emotion and light. You feel you are right there with the slaves, in their cottages and in the fields. Author and illustrator notes and a timeline and glossary give important background information. As a former kindergarten teacher, I love how the story helps give young kids a small window into the life of a slave at that important moment in history. As a mom, I see its value as a launching pad to talk about what being free really means.

Take note of the last illustration where the entire family is packed up to leave freedom doesn't mean you can do anything you want - it means making decisions about your future This is a book that belongs on every school library shelf! Vivian Kirkfield Author - Show Me How! Build Your Child's Self-Esteem Through Reading, Crafting and Cooking

On a Day named Juneteenth All Different Now is an easy reader that celebrates Juneteenth's beginnings. As they slept and morning came, it was a day of change and a voice naming freedom to those that lived in slavery. The readers of this well illustrated picture book watch and see how the newly freed people react. It's time to see a new day. Well told with calming watercolors and people of different hues and height, against eighteen-sixty-five (1865), summer scenes in Texas, it is a story for all to read and to celebrate freedom. Praise to the author for including notes, an important date list and thoughts about Juneteenth.

This is the story of Juneteenth and how the freed slaves reacted to the news. Magnificently illustrated and filled with the love of patchwork families. The glossary, notes from the author and illustrator, along with the historical timeline will help describe the Juneteenth celebration. Outstanding book all around. 5 stars

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