



# *Addy* **Learning Guide**

Learn about freedom,  
the Civil War, and life after  
slavery through Addy's  
stories, set in 1864.



 **American Girl®**



Addy

## About the Addy Books

Six books of historical fiction tell the story of Addy Walker, a nine-year-old girl born into slavery who escapes to freedom in Philadelphia during the Civil War.

Addy's series has two key underlying themes: the drive for freedom and the importance of family. Indeed, the two themes are inseparable. One of the worst horrors of slavery was that owners could sell family members at any moment. So the drive for freedom by enslaved people arose, in part, from the passion to protect their families from separation. Addy's own family is divided during the war. In Philadelphia, she learns that freedom has costs—a lesson the nation learns as it endures the anguish of the Civil War. By persevering in their efforts to reunite their family, by keeping up their hopes despite setbacks, the Walkers finally are reunited, just as the nation is reunited.

The six books of the core series are:

**Book 1: *Meet Addy***

**Book 2: *Addy Learns a Lesson***

**Book 3: *Addy's Surprise***

**Book 4: *Happy Birthday, Addy!***

**Book 5: *Addy Saves the Day***

**Book 6: *Changes for Addy***

## Instructions for Teachers

Assign or read aloud to your students some or all of the books in numerical order. As needed, print copies of each work sheet you would like to use in class. Before assigning the work sheets to your students, consider the talking points and discussion questions for each work sheet provided.

Note: It's not essential to read all six books in order to complete the work sheets.

## Talking Points and Discussion

### Freedom

Addy's experience of freedom is much different from what she imagined it would be. Addy thought that when she reached freedom, she would learn to read and write, wear fancy dresses, and never go hungry because her father would be well-paid. The only thing about her dream that came true was learning to read and write. *Discussion questions:* Have you ever imagined how something was going to be, but then it turned out to be different? What did you imagine? How was the real situation different from the way you thought it would be?

### The Civil War

One major cause of the Civil War was the disagreement over slavery. Many people were against it because slavery was cruel. *Discussion question:* What were some ways in which Addy and her family suffered as slaves?

### Life After Slavery

President Lincoln could not have lived long enough to see how his presidency changed many things for the better in the United States, or to see the challenges and inequalities that remained. *Discussion question:* If you could tell Abe Lincoln how his presidency changed our country, what would you say?



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## Answer Key

### Freedom

1. Responses should convey that on the inside, people are free to think, feel, and believe what they choose.
2. Responses will vary but should convey that people who made the law feared that slaves who could read and write would be better organized and more likely to escape.
3. Responses will vary but should convey that Addy's mother risked them getting caught and severely punished by their master. Their lives were also at risk because they faced many dangers in the wild on the journey.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.

### The Civil War

1. The South had slavery and the North did not.
2. Responses should convey that most Southerners were afraid that if slavery ended, they would not be able to run their farms and support their families.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

### Life After Slavery

1. Answers should convey the following: got paid for working; could not be punished like a slave; had to pay for food, clothing, and shelter; could not be sold; not treated as an equal by most whites.
2. Responses will vary but should convey that since blacks were free, they had to provide for their own food, clothing, and shelter. Freedmen had a difficult time doing this because many of them did not have jobs or families that could help them, so many freedmen would have to rely on charity to survive.
3. Answers will vary.

### Puzzle

A	P	R	I	L	N	I	N	T	H
W	A	S	T	H	E	D	A	Y	
T	H	E	C	I	V	I	L		
W	A	R	E	N	D	E	D		

Illustrations by Dahl Taylor, Melodye Rosales, Renée Graef, and Luann Roberts



Addy

## Freedom

1. While living on the plantation, Poppa tells Addy, “There’s always freedom inside your head.” What does Poppa mean?

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2. Addy dreams of learning to read and write when she is free. In most of the South, it was illegal for slaves to read or write. Why do you think people made that law?

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3. Mama took many risks when she decided to try to escape with Addy. What risks did she take?

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4. Do you agree with Momma’s decision to try to escape? Why or why not?

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5. If you could talk to a slave owner from the South, what would you say?

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### The Underground Railroad

Many slaves who escaped to freedom used the *Underground Railroad*—a network of secret routes and safe houses. The Underground Railroad had no leader. The network was mainly made up of black people, both free and enslaved, but also some whites. The Underground Railroad moved hundreds of slaves to freedom each year.



Addy

## The Civil War

1. In the 1860s, what was a big difference between the Northern states and the Southern states?

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### What Is a Civil War?

A civil war is a war between people who live in the same country. Many countries have had civil wars over different issues.

2. Before the Civil War, most farms in the South used slaves to grow and harvest their crops and tend their animals. What do you think Southerners were afraid would happen if slavery ended?

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3. The Civil War could have been avoided. President Lincoln could have let the Southern states break away from the United States. If you were in Lincoln's place, would you have declared war against the South, or would you have let those states form their own country? Explain your answer.

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### The Emancipation Proclamation

During the Civil War, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which outlawed slavery in Southern states. Lincoln hoped the new law would inspire slaves to leave the plantations. He knew that without slaves, businesses in the South could not run and the war would end.

4. President Lincoln made a new law against slavery. If you were President, what new law would you like to make?

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Addy

## Life After Slavery

1. After Addy escaped the plantation, she was free, but her life still wasn't easy. Fill in the right side of the chart below to compare Addy's life as a slave to her life in freedom.

Addy's Life in Slavery	Addy's Life in Freedom
Forced to work for no pay	
Could be brutally punished	
Dependent on her owner for food, clothing, and shelter	
Could be sold and separated from her family	
Not treated as an equal by most whites	

2. In *Addy's Surprise*, Reverend Drake says, "Freedom ain't free." What did he mean by this? Give two examples from the Addy series.

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3. After slavery ended, black children could go to school, but they were not allowed to attend schools for white children. Most schools for black children did not have as much money as white schools. If you were Addy, would you rather go to a white school or a black school? Why?

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### Healing, Not Hatred

President Lincoln knew that after the war, it would be difficult to reunite the nation. Just before the war's end, Lincoln gave a speech. In it he asked Americans not to hate one another but to work to heal the nation's wounds by caring for everyone—black or white, Northerner or Southerner—because all Americans had been terribly hurt by the war.



Addy

## Addy's Special Day

Like many former slaves, Addy didn't know the exact date of her birthday. Instead, Addy got to choose a special day for her birthday. To discover which day Addy chose and why it was so special, solve the puzzle below. You must decide which letter goes into which box in each column. A letter can be used only once. Leave the shaded boxes empty.


W A R R L C N D I L Y  
 A W H I T E N V N D H  
 T A E H E I D T  
 P S I E A

