



# Sojourner Truth; Mary Seacole

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News to Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

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These two titles from part of the 'Tell Me About' series aimed at young readers. The topics covered in this series feature famous Artists, Composers, Engineers, Explorers, Writers/Illustrators amongst others. The books are generously illustrated with colour photographs, and reproductions of contemporary paintings, engravings and drawings. They feature, at the back a resume of important dates as well as a glossary of 'Keywords' and an index. It is to the credit of the editors that black achievers are also featured in the series, even if restricted thus far to the catch-all Pioneer section.

The two titles under review, published, under the 'Tell Me About Pioneers' category, are well researched, simply written accounts of the lives of two remarkable black women. Sojourner Truth was her freedom at the age of thirty and, in spite of being illiterate, dedicated her life to speaking out against slavery, racism and inequality in the course of her 'sojourns' across America. A measure of her impact was her visit to the White House at the invitation of Abraham Lincoln, shortly after the abolition of slavery.

Mary Seacole was born in Jamaica in 1805 to a Scottish army officer and his African ex-slave wife. She learnt about the medicinal properties of plants from her mother, a herbalist in the African tradition, and achieved remarkable success in treating cholera in Panama, while conventional medicine had made little impact. She later went to London and on the commencement of the Crimean War offered her services as a nurse. When this was turned down, she went at her own expense. Her nursing skills were widely acclaimed and she was called 'Mother Seacole' by British soldiers, and generally referred to as 'the other lady with the lamp.' On her return to London, a musical event attended by some 40,000 people, was staged to raise funds for her. In addition a book entitled **Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole** was published which became a bestseller.

Running Order:

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**Links:**

- [1] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/sojourner-truth>
- [2] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/mary-seacole>
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