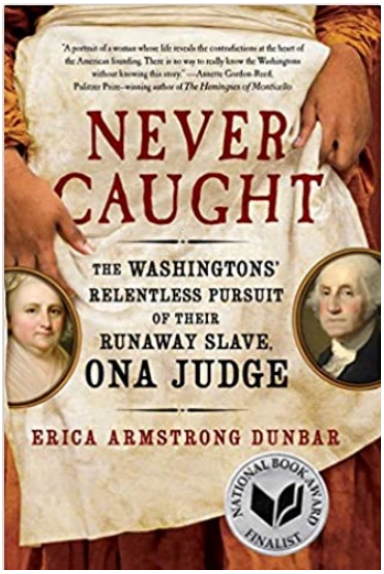
AP African American Studies
Summer Reading 2026

Welcome to AP African American Studies. We are so pleased to be offering this course next year and so excited that you've chosen to take it!

The summer reading for this course follows the incredible journey of Ona Judge, a women enslaved to George Washington and his family. In one of the few stories we have about 18th century fugitive women, Erika Armstrong Dunbar, Professor of History at Rutgers University, brings Ona Judge's perilous journey from slavery to freedom to life. Winner of numerous book awards, it's a compelling story that shows us a northern vision of slavery rarely explored.



Never Caught: The Washingtons Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave Ona Judge by Erika Armstrong Dunbar, Simon and Schuster, 2017.

Please feel free to listen to the audio book version of this text.

There is a children's book version as well – do not mistake it for the text we are reading. Look for this cover specifically.

This book is available at the school bookstore.

As you read, please annotate for the following questions:

1) How is Ona Judge's life in Philadelphia different than the enslaved people living in Virginia at Mount Vernon?

2) How do specific laws and legal changes impact Ona Judge's life?

3) What people, networks, and communities work to help Ona be free?

4) How does the author tell the story of Ona Judge? What are the sources she uses? What does the author do when sources are limited?

5) What does freedom mean to Ona Judge?

Questions? Contact Ms. Christensen or Mr. Rothschild in the Social Studies Department:

Ms. Christensen, Social Studies Dept. (Rm 350)
christem@nths.net

Mr. Rothschild, Social Studies Dept. (Rm 350)
rothschd@nths.net