

IS IT LOVE —  
WHEN IT DOES NOT HOLD  
YOUR ATTENTION? WHEN IT DOES  
NOT CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR PEACE AND  
CLARITY? — IS IT LOVE WHEN  
YOU CANNOT SEE BEAUTY AND  
POISE? BUT MOST OF ALL  
IS IT LOVING WHEN WE  
ARE NOT  
AWARE?



Love

to my friend  
from Yamaoka  
2/17





Hi,  
I'm learning how to "stay in  
the lines". I'm also learning  
that an occasional slip  
is not critical.





## Francis Scott Key Biography

Poet, Lawyer (1779–1843)

JUST SO THAT  
YOU CAN "KNOW", AND  
NOT SAY, "I DID NOT KNOW."

### Synopsis

Born on August 1, 1779, in Frederick County, Maryland, Francis Scott Key became a lawyer who witnessed the British attack on Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. The fort withstood the day-long assault, inspiring Key to write a poem that would become the future U.S. national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." Key later served as a district attorney for Washington, D.C. He died on January 11, 1843.

### Early Life and Career

Francis Scott Key was born on August 1, 1779, in Frederick County, Maryland, to a wealthy clan on the plantation of Terra Rubra. He was educated at home until the age of 10 and then attended an Annapolis grammar school. He went on to study at St. John's College, ultimately returning to his home county to set up practice as a lawyer. Key wed Mary "Polly" Taylor Lloyd in the early 1800s, and the couple would go on to have 11 children. By 1805, he'd set up his legal practice in Georgetown, part of Washington, D.C.

### Crafting 'The Star-Spangled Banner'

On September 13, the three at sea watched what would become a day-long assault. After continual bombing, to Key's surprise, the British weren't able to destroy the fort, and Key noted upon the dawning of the next morning a large U.S. flag being flown. (It had in fact been sewn by Mary Young Pickersgill at the request of the fort commander.)

The British ceased their attack and left the area. Key immediately wrote down the words for a poem that he would continue composing at an inn the next day. The work, which relied heavily on visualizations of what he witnessed, would come to be known as the "Defence of Fort M'Henry" and was printed in handbills and newspapers, including the *Baltimore Patriot*. The poem was later set to the tune of a drinking song by John Stafford Smith, "To Anacreon in Heaven," and came to be called "The Star-Spangled Banner."

### Stance on Slavery

Key continued working in law and became Washington, D.C., district attorney in 1833. He also had a complex, some might say contradictory, stance on race. In his capacity as district attorney, he was noted to have overseen proceedings that upheld the system of slavery, prosecuting abolitionists. Key was a slave owner himself, though he went on record as saying that the system of slavery was full of sin and "a bed of torture." He also helped establish the American Colonization Society, which advocated the transport of African Americans to Africa. Information on Key's relationship to race and his D.C. legal career can be found in the Jefferson Morley book *Snow-Storm in August: Washington City, Francis Scott Key, and the Forgotten Race Riot of 1835*.



# THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

by: Francis Scott Key (1779-1843)



THE RELEVANT  
NATURE OF THE  
PAST - IS IT  
CONNECTED TO  
OUR PRESENT?  
↑  
HUMMMMM  
WHEN WE STOP  
TO REALLY  
"EXAMINE",  
STUDY, AND  
UNDERSTAND  
WRITINGS AND  
RULES FROM OUR  
PAST; AT SOME  
POINT WE SEEK  
TO KNOW IF THESE  
WRITINGS INCLUDE  
US OR IF THERE  
IS A NEED FOR  
AN EXPANDED  
DEFINITION?

**O** SAY, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming!  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;  
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, now conceals, now discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream;  
'Tis the star-spangled banner! O long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,  
A home and a country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave,  
From terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land  
Praise the Power that made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto:-- "In God is our trust!"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is reprinted from Historic Poems and Ballads. Ed. Rupert S. Holland. Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co., 1912.

Read more at [http://www.poetry-archive.com/k/the\\_star\\_spangled\\_banner.html#yv2lhRIPvFrw7RRO](http://www.poetry-archive.com/k/the_star_spangled_banner.html#yv2lhRIPvFrw7RRO).