

Appendix

Author's Biography

Joyce Annette Barnes is one of the writers who wrote historical novels. There are not many information about her biography. She lives with her family in Smyrna, Georgia. One of the historical novels that she wrote is *Amistad*. *Amistad* is the best novel of Barnes. She made this novel based on the film screenplay of Steven Spielberg. In spite of writing historical novels, she also writes some famous novels for young readers such as, *The Baby Grand*, *the Moon in July*, and *Me* and *Promise Me the Moon*.

Synopsis of the Story

La Amistad actually is a name of a Spanish merchant ship on which a rebellion by the African slaves it was carrying broke out in 1839 when the schooner was traveling along the coast of Cuba. The ship was taken over by a group of captives who had been kidnapped in Africa and sold into slavery. *Amistad* carried 53 captives (49 men, 1 young girl, and 3 children), all previously taken from Sierra Leone in West Africa when the insurrection occurred. They are put in chains and transported by ship in terrible conditions. They are actually belonged to the Mende village in West Africa. The insurrection started when the ship, *Amistad*, was taking the slave captives from Cuba, where they are sold as slaves to two Spaniards, Ruiz and Montes. They are going to be put to work in the sugar plantation. *Amistad* was sailing in the Caribbean when Singbe, a 25-year-old African, later given the Spanish name **Joseph Cinque**, was able to free himself and the other captives from their chains. During the dark night, they went on deck and killed the captain and his cook. Two other crew members were saved and directed by Cinque to turn the ship back toward their homeland of Africa. Instead of going toward Africa, the ship was steered to the shores off Montauk, Long Island. Here the ship docked for food and water, but the American navel ship, U.S.S. Washington, noticed it. The captain, named Richard Meade, ordered the ship to dock over at New London, Connecticut on August 27, 1839. They attack and defeat the *Amistad* and the Africans become prisoners again. Connecticut still had not abolished slavery at that time. Finally, by the hard efforts of Cinque and the American lawyer, Baldwin, the town's Congregational Church at Farmington Connecticut helped the Africans on their voyage back to Sierra Leone in the month of November 1841. The Africans especially Cinque are innocent. He kills because it is for defense to get his freedom. Therefore, Cinque and the others Africans can be free from accusation of mutiny aboard the ship *Amistad* and get their freedom. This is a true story of the triumph over indignity and injustice was important to fight for equality for all.