This exhibit celebrates the lives and work of Frederick Douglass, James Baldwin, and Ollie Harington. It brings together materials collected by Walter and Linda Evans and now stewarded by the Beinecke library.

The exhibit will be on view from January 26, 2024 to July 7, 2024. School groups are welcome to come for guided tours M-F, between 10AM and 3PM, with advance reservation and depending on Beinecke staff availability. Please note that some items in the exhibit may include outdated or offensive language.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange for a guided tour, please contact Tubyez Cropper at tubyez.cropper@yale.edu. Please request tours two or more weeks in advance of your proposed visit date.

If you would like your students to explore some exhibit themes before visiting, on the next page we provide annotated links to digital items from the Walter O. Evans Collection of Ollie Harrington Artwork and the Walter O. Evans Collection of Frederick Douglass and Douglass Family Papers. Transcriptions of handwritten documents from the Douglass collection that are featured in the exhibit are also available online.

The Beinecke Library does not hold the rights to provide digital versions of items from the James Baldwin collection featured in this exhibit. Visitors can access the Baldwin collection by making a research appointment. A small collection of Baldwin’s early writings, including a poem he published in a high school literary magazine, is publicly available via the Beinecke digital collections portal.
Douglass Family Photographs and Correspondence
The exhibit features Douglass family letters, photographs, and other documents. This includes letters written by Douglass's oldest son Lewis (pictured here with his brother Charles, and Charles's son Joseph). The exhibit also seeks to represent the voice of Anna Murray Douglass through the writings and reflections of her children.

Frederick Douglass: Oration on the Death of William Lloyd Garrison
The exhibit includes a handwritten manuscript of this oration, inviting comparisons between the manuscript and a published version of this eulogy.

Douglass Family Scrapbooks
The exhibit shows the Douglass family from a variety of perspectives. One of these is through scrapbooks made by Douglass's sons. This image shows a page from a scrapbook made by Douglass's oldest son, Lewis, with a ticket to the impeachment of Andrew Johnson.

Several fully digitized scrapbooks offer glimpses into the life and political involvements of the Douglass family.

Ollie Harrington: Art and Political Commentary
The exhibit includes images from Harrington's Dark Laughter and other comic strips and artwork, in which he engaged with questions about justice, racism, poverty, and the Cold War.

The Beinecke digital collection includes 95 images of Harrington's political cartoons, including the image reproduced here. The caption reads: “My educated uncle says we're upper class because we still have a roof over our heads!”