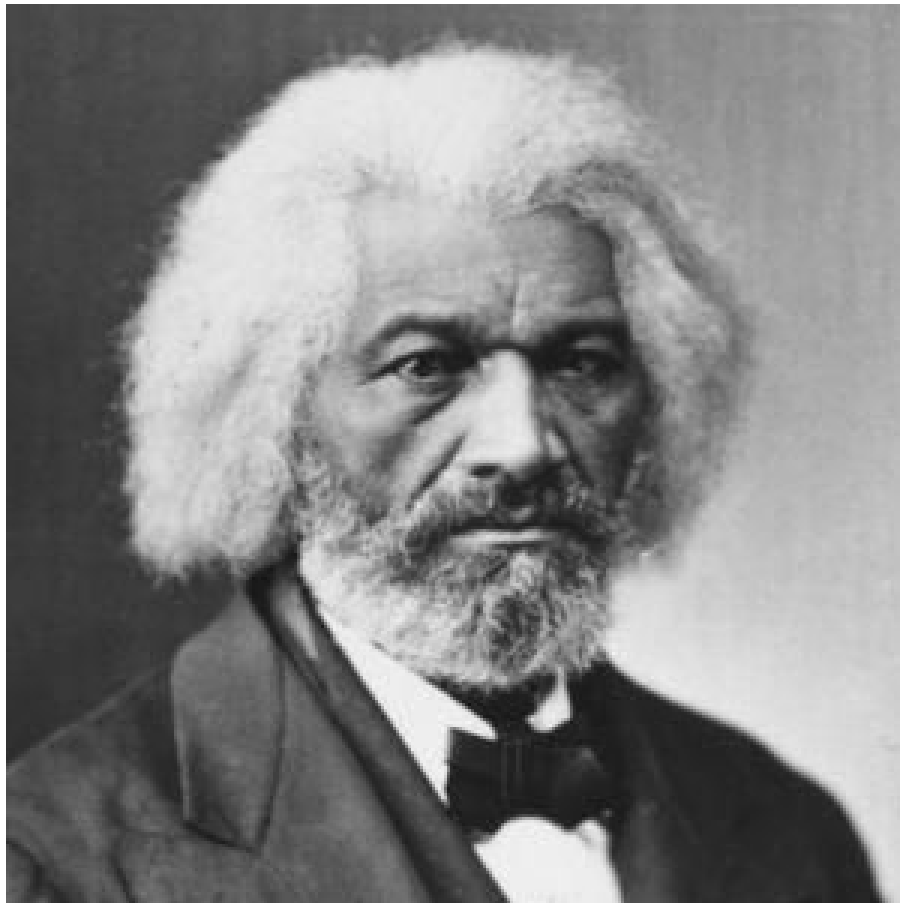


Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

**A Critical Reading Study Guide for
8th Grade Social Studies and Language Arts**



Name _____

Team _____

As you read, think about answers to the following essential questions:

1. What is Douglass's **PURPOSE** in writing this narrative?
2. What is the relationship between knowledge (education) and power?
3. How does learning about Frederick Douglass's life change the way you will live yours?

Chapter Three:

6. Close-read paragraph six. What is a *maxim*? Highlight the slaves' maxim. What does it mean?

7. Explain the prejudice that existed among slaves from different plantations. How is this **ironic**?

Chapter Four:

8. Close-read the first two paragraphs describing Mr. Gore. Highlight passages that describe him. Why is he a "first-rate overseer"? Why is this **ironic**?

9. What four violent events happen to slaves by their overseers?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

10. Why are these events allowed to happen? How does this show the system of justice on the plantation?

Chapter Five:

11. Where is Frederick moving? What is his reaction to this? What does this show about the life of a slave child?

Chapter 8:

19. How do slave owners regard their slaves? Give two examples that explain your answer.

Chapter 9

20. How does Covey's "slave-breaker" reputation positively affect Covey, the slave owner, and Frederick?
21. Highlight evidence in the text that shows examples how both Captain Thomas Auld and Mr. Covey misuse and abuse Christianity. Why is this **ironic**?

Chapter 10

22. Describe the turning point in Frederick's career as a slave.
23. How do the slave owners use the holidays to "disgust the slave with freedom"?
24. List three ways life with William Freeland is different from life with Edward Covey.
25. In this chapter Douglass gives numerous examples of his courage. Find at least one example of each of these types of courage that he demonstrates:

Intellectual Courage:

Emotional Courage:

Spiritual Courage:

Physical Courage:

Chapter 11

26. What are two reasons why Frederick will not relay the means of his escape?
 - a.

 - b.

27. What prompts Frederick to make the decision to finally try to escape?

28. Close-read the tenth paragraph ("We now began to feel a degree . . ."). Explain Frederick's name changes.

29. What had Douglass believed about life in the North? Was he correct? What does he find out?

30. What does Douglass discover about racial prejudice in New Bedford?

31. Why is Douglass at first reluctant to speak out against slavery? Then what?