

Juniors,

For this summer, your reading assignment is *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. The book is a memoir written by Frederick Douglass, who was a former slave and abolitionist. It is nonfiction, which may make it a challenge for some readers. If reading comprehension is not your strong suit, I highly recommend you download the audio book and listen to it WHILE you are reading it.

This attached study guide is meant to help you understand the content of the narrative better. You are to read the specified chapters and complete the guide AS you read. NEATLY write directly on the paper (unless you need more space then use notebook paper and attach it.) Ha If your work is messy and illegible, I will deduct points, even if the content is correct. This guide will be due the day we return from summer, it will be graded, and you will take a test over the book by the end of the first week we return from summer. Additionally, we will write an essay, so it is very important that you read this memoir and complete the reading guide to the very best of your ability.

I realize this is not your typical summer reading assignment, but that is how important this book is...not only to me as a teacher of American literature but also to our nation as a whole as we continue to struggle with racism and division, even over 150 years after the Civil War ended.

Mrs. Wahrmund

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* Reading Guide

### Chapters 1-3

#### Characters

In the first box, describe each character's relationship to Frederick Douglass. In the second box, cite a description that Douglass gives of that person (quote word-for-word, including a page number).

#### **Harriet Bailey (Chapter 1)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>    <b>“ ( )</b>
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#### **Captain Anthony (Chapter 1)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>    <b>“ ( )</b>
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#### **Mr. Plummer (Chapter 1)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>    <b>“ ( )</b>
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#### **Hester (Chapter 1)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>    <b>“ ( )</b>
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**Captain Thomas Auld (Chapter 2)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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**Colonel Lloyd (Chapter 2)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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**Mr. Severe (Chapter 2)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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**Mr. Hopkins (Chapter 2)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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**Old Barney & Young Barney (Chapter 3)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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## Summary of Struggles

Fill in the blanks below to summarize the struggles and hardships that Douglass describes in Chapters 1-3.

As a slave, Frederick experienced the following struggles:

- He didn't know his \_\_\_\_\_, his \_\_\_\_\_, or who exactly his \_\_\_\_\_ was.
- He was separated from his \_\_\_\_\_ at a young age and didn't get a chance to bond with her.
- He witnessed his \_\_\_\_\_ being cruelly beaten.
- He received a limited supply of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, which meant that sometimes he and the other slave children may have to be nude.
- He didn't have a \_\_\_\_\_ and had to sleep on the hard, cold \_\_\_\_\_.

## Responses

Answer the following questions, using complete sentences. Be sure to address all parts of the question.

### **Chapter 1**

Why, according to Douglass, was it profitable for slave masters to have children with their slaves? How were the children of slave women and slave masters treated?

## Chapter 2

What misperception did Douglass say people had of the slaves' singing? According to him, their songs reflected that they felt how?

## Chapter 3

Why, according to Douglass, might slaves feel inclined to speak favorably about their masters?

### Connections

Consider each quote from Douglass. Then, share an experience in your life that relates to Douglass's feelings. Write your responses on a separate sheet of paper, using complete sentences. Be sure to address all parts of the question, and provide specific examples.

## Chapter 1

*"I have no accurate knowledge of my age, ...A want of information concerning my [birthday] was a source of unhappiness to me...The white children could tell their ages. I could not tell why I ought to be deprived of the same privilege" (19).*

How do you feel on your birthday? How do you celebrate your birthday? How would you feel if you did not get to celebrate your birthday, or didn't even know when your birthday was or exactly how old you were?

## Chapter 2

*"I have often been utterly astonished, since I came to the north, to find persons who could speak of the singing, among slaves, of evidence of their contentment and happiness. It is impossible to conceive of a greater mistake. Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy" (30).*

Describe a time in your life when you felt sad or upset, but on the surface you appeared happy. What did you do that gave the impression that you were content? How did these actions hide your true feelings?

## Chapter 3

*"This is the penalty of telling the truth, of telling the simple truth, in answer to a series of plain questions. It is partly in consequence of such facts that slaves, when inquired as to their condition and the character of their masters, almost universally say they are contented, and that their masters are kind" (35).*

Describe a situation in which you felt pressured to lie. Why did you withhold from telling the truth? What happened as a result? How would the situation have been different if you would have been truthful?

## Chapters 4-6

### Characters

In the first box, describe each character's relationship to Frederick Douglass. In the second box, cite a description that Douglass gives of that person (quote word-for-word, including a page number).

#### Mr. Austin Gore (Chapter 4)

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>    <b>“ ( )</b>
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#### Master Daniel Lloyd (Chapter 5)

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>    <b>“ ( )</b>
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#### Mr. Auld (Chapter 6)

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>    <b>“ ( )</b>
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#### Mrs. Auld (Chapter 6)

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>    <b>“ ( )</b>
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### Summary of Struggles

Fill in the blanks below to summarize the struggles and hardships that Douglass describes in Chapters 4-6.

As a slave, Frederick experienced the following struggles:

- He was ruled by a cruel overseer named \_\_\_\_\_, who took great pleasure in punishing the slaves. For instance, Douglass witnessed the \_\_\_\_\_ of a slave named \_\_\_\_\_, who was \_\_\_\_\_ for refusing the overseer's orders.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of a colored person in Douglass's county was not considered a \_\_\_\_\_; there was no justice for victims.
- He had few \_\_\_\_\_, so he was cold in the winter, and did not have a \_\_\_\_\_, so he had to sleep on the cold, hard floor.
- His food, referred to as \_\_\_\_\_, consisted of coarse boiled corn meal that was served out of a \_\_\_\_\_, similar to how pigs were fed.
- The initial kindness offered to him by \_\_\_\_\_ did not last long; her husband forbade her from \_\_\_\_\_ Douglass.

## Responses

- Answer the following questions, using complete sentences. Be sure to address all parts of the question.

### **Chapter 4**

Why was Mr. Gore so quick to find fault with the slaves, and why didn't he give them the opportunity to defend themselves? Why did he punish Demby so severely for his disobedience?

### **Chapter 5**

Why was Douglass full of joy at the prospect of leaving the plantation? Why wasn't he sad to leave his home?



## Chapter 6

Why was Mr. Auld so against his wife educating Douglass? What was he fearful would happen if Douglass learned to read and write?

### Connections

Consider each quote from Douglass. Then, share an experience in your life that relates to Douglass's feelings. Write your responses on a separate sheet of paper, using complete sentences. Be sure to address all parts of the question, and provide specific examples.

## Chapter 4

Mr. Gore said he killed Demby because *"He was setting a dangerous example for the other slaves...He argued that if one slave refused to be corrected, and escaped with his life, the other slaves would soon copy the example"* (39).

Recall a time when you witnessed an individual being singled out, punished, or treated unfairly in order to set an example for a larger group. Why was that individual singled out, and what message was the person in charge trying to send? Did you think this treatment was fair? Was it effective? Why or why not?

## Chapter 5

*"I look upon my departure from Colonel Lloyd's plantation as one of the most interesting events of my life...Going to live at Baltimore laid the foundation, and opened the gateway, to all my subsequent prosperity" (30).*

Douglass described going to Baltimore as a turning point in his life. What is a moment in your life that has changed, or has the possibility to change, the course of your life? How would your life be different if this circumstance had not occurred?

## Chapter 6

*"I now understood what had been to me a most perplexing difficulty—to wit, the white man's power to enslave the black man...From that moment, I understood the pathway from freedom to slavery" (48).*

Describe a situation in your life in which you felt a lack of power. What did you do to empower yourself? What made you realize what course of action you needed to take in order to gain that power?

## Chapters 7-9

### Characters

In the first box, describe each character's relationship to Frederick Douglass. In the second box, cite a description that Douglass gives of that person (quote word-for-word, including a page number).

#### **Mistress Auld (Chapter 7)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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#### **Master Andrew (Chapter 8)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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#### **Master Thomas Auld (Chapter 9)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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#### **Mr. Edward Covey (Chapter 9)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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## Summary of Struggles

Fill in the blanks below to summarize the struggles and hardships that Douglass describes in Chapters 7-9.

As a slave, Frederick experienced the following struggles:

· He had to secretly teach himself how to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. He did this by \_\_\_\_\_.

· He read a book titled \_\_\_\_\_, which led him to feel \_\_\_\_\_ towards his slaveholders and his life as a slave.

Douglass remarked that, in a way, learning to read had been a \_\_\_\_\_ rather than a blessing.

· After Captain Anthony's death, Douglass had to return to the plantation to be valued along with the other \_\_\_\_\_; he suffered more than the other slaves because he knew what it was like to be treated \_\_\_\_\_.

· Douglass's \_\_\_\_\_ was forced to live in a small \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ to try to support herself in her old age.

· As a means of punishing his brother, Douglass had to live with Master \_\_\_\_\_, meaning he would be separated from \_\_\_\_\_, to whom he had grown very attached. He was \_\_\_\_\_, did not give the slaves enough to \_\_\_\_\_, and used \_\_\_\_\_ to justify his cruelty

## Responses

Answer the following questions, using complete sentences. Be sure to address all parts of the question.

### **Chapter 7**

In Baltimore, how did Mistress Auld's treatment of Douglass change over time? To what did Douglass attribute this change?

### Chapter 8

At the valuation of property, Douglass “saw more clearly than ever the brutalizing effects of slavery upon both slave and slaveholder” (59). What about this event brought this realization to Douglass?

### Chapter 9

How did Captain Auld’s religious conversion make him an even crueler slave master?

### Connections

Consider each quote from Douglass. Then, share an experience in your life that relates to Douglass’s feelings. Write your responses on a separate sheet of paper, using complete sentences. Be sure to address all parts of the question, and provide specific examples.

## Chapter 7

*“As I read and contemplated the subject, behold! that very discontentment which Master Hugh had predicted would follow my learning to read had already come, to torment and sting my soul to unutterable anguish... I would at times feel that learning to read had been a curse rather than a blessing ” (54).*

Recall a time when you expected something to be a blessing, but it turned out to feel like more of a curse. In other words, what benefit or good outcome did you expect, and how did the situation turn out poorly or differently than you imagined? Also consider, how can something be both a blessing AND a curse?

## Chapter 8

*“Not long after his marriage, a misunderstanding took place between [Master Thomas] and Master Hugh; and as a means of punishing his brother, he took me from him to live with himself at St. Michael’s” (62).*

Describe an instance when you were caught in the middle of a conflict between other people. What was the disagreement or issue between these people, and how did you end up involved? What was the outcome for you, and how did you feel to be mixed up in it?

## Chapter 9

*"The leading trait in [Captain Auld's] character was meanness; and if there were any other element in his nature, it was made subject to this. He was mean; and like most other mean men, he lacked the ability to conceal his meanness" (65).*

Evoke the meanest person you have ever encountered. What actions made this person so mean? Why do you think he or she acted so cruelly?

## Chapters 10-11

### Characters

In the first box, describe each character's relationship to Frederick Douglass. In the second box, cite a description that Douglass gives of that person (quote word-for-word, including a page number).

#### Mr. Covey (Chapter 10)

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: "</b>       <b>" ( )</b>
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#### Sandy Jenkins (Chapter 10)

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: "</b>       <b>" ( )</b>
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#### Mr. William Freeland (Chapter 10)

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: "</b>       <b>" ( )</b>
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**Mr. Hopkins (Chapter 10)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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**Mr. William Gardner (Chapter 10)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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**Mr. Ruggles (Chapter 11)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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**Mr. Johnson (Chapter 11)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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**Anna (Chapter 11)**

<b>Relationship to Douglass:</b>	<b>Quote from Douglass: “</b>       <b>“ ( )</b>
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## Summary of Struggles

Fill in the blanks below to summarize the struggles and hardships that Douglass describes in Chapters 10 and 11.

Frederick experienced the following struggles:

- He lost control of the \_\_\_\_\_ and was \_\_\_\_\_ by Mr. Covey. ·  
Covey would sneak up on the slaves, earning him the nickname “the \_\_\_\_\_.”
- He nearly \_\_\_\_\_ to death from a wound on his head; he ran for \_\_\_\_\_ hours and \_\_\_\_\_ miles so his master could see how severely Covey had beaten him; in fact, Douglass feared that Covey would \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- During the \_\_\_\_\_, the slave masters would devise plans to make the slaves get \_\_\_\_\_ to make them feel \_\_\_\_\_ about freedom and comfortable living in slavery.
- Douglass was beaten by four white \_\_\_\_\_ who did not want to work with free \_\_\_\_\_ carpenters.
- He was forced to give the \_\_\_\_\_ he earned to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Despite escaping to freedom, in the state of \_\_\_\_\_, Douglass felt \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Responses

Answer the following questions, using complete sentences. Be sure to address all parts of the question.

### **Chapter 10**

Why did Mr. Covey, who was poor, buy one slave, Caroline? How would the purchase of Caroline help him to increase his own wealth?

### Chapter 10

Douglass writes, "You have seen how a man was made a slave; you shall see how a slave was made a man" (76). How did Douglass transform himself from a "slave" to a "man," despite still being physically enslaved?

### Chapter 11

What misconception did Douglass have about people in the North? Specifically, why had he believed that people in the North didn't own slaves? What kinds of people did he expect to meet, and how was the reality of the North different?

### Connections

Consider each quote from Douglass. Then, share an experience in your life that relates to Douglass's feelings. Write your responses on a separate sheet of paper, using complete sentences. Be sure to address all parts of the question, and provide specific examples.

### Chapter 10

*"This battle with Mr. Covey was the turning-point in my career as a slave. It rekindled the few expiring embers of freedom, and revived within me a sense of my own manhood. It recalled the departed self-confidence, and inspired me again with a determination to be free" (82).*

Recall a time when you stood up for yourself. Why did you decide to stand up for yourself, and how did you do it? How did the other person respond? How did you feel as a result?

## Chapter 10

*"I have said that this mode of treatment is a part of the whole system of fraud and inhumanity of slavery. It is so. The mode here adopted to disgust the slave with freedom, by allowing him to see only the abuse of it, is carried out in other things" (85).*

Describe an instance when, on the surface, it appeared that someone had your best interests at heart, but they had an ulterior motive. How did it appear that they were helping you, and what negative outcome did they actually anticipate?

## Chapter 11

*"I have been frequently asked how I felt when I found myself in a free State... I was again seized with a feeling of great insecurity and loneliness... This in itself was enough to damp the ardor of my enthusiasm" (112).*

Evoke a time when an event that you expected to make you feel positive emotions instead left you feeling mixed or negative emotions. What about that experience was not as positive as you anticipated? Did your feelings eventually change?

