

1. Why is it important to read this narrative?
2. In what ways was justice for slaves (and all men of color) different from justice for whites?
3. How does Douglass establish his credibility with a white northern audience? Did he compromise too much by not providing more graphic detail of the violence he must have witnessed/experienced? Explain using textual evidence.
4. Where Douglass succeeded, many more men and women bound in slavery did not even try. What are the qualities that empower some individuals but not others? What events caused Douglass to risk all? What values did Douglass possess in order to succeed? Are winners born, or can anyone achieve personal power? Back up your argument with examples from Douglass.
5. Describe how Douglass uses education as a tool for transformation. How does education serve as a way to empower himself and his community? What is the connection between physical freedom and mental/spiritual freedom? Why was it so important to keep slaves from reading? Give evidence from the narrative.
6. *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass* contains numerous arguments against slavery. For example, Douglass states that slavery corrupts the moral life of both slave holder and enslaved. Locate 3 examples of this and explain how whites were negatively impacted by slavery.
7. How is the idea of religion portrayed through the eyes of both the slaves and the slaveholders in the narrative? (textual evidence) How is the Bible exploited to “justify” slavery and yet also used to shed light on its injustice?
8. How do Douglass’ masters and overseers affect him and his journey into freedom?
9. How does Douglass become known to the “anti-slavery world”? How did Douglass’ story affect the abolitionist movement? Should his narrative continue to be taught in schools? Why or why not?