

Notes from March 21, 2007

- 1.) p.1: Didn't know his own age.
 - 2.) p. 3B: Prediction of the reason for the downfall of slavery.
 - 3.) p. 5A: First eyewitness of slave brutality.
 - 4.) p. 6B: Food and living conditions for slaves.
 - 5.) p. 12B: Slaves fought each other over who had the better master.
 - 6.) p. 20B: Education inspires freedom.
 - 7.) p. 21A: City slaves vs. plantation slaves.
-
- 1.) p.1: Didn't know his own age.
 - Thought it was amazing you can go through life not knowing how old you are. You have no age and no birthday.
 - 2.) p. 3B: Prediction of the reason for the downfall of slavery.
 - Predicted that the growing rate of mixed people would cause the end of slavery.
 - Being a mixed slave, you got treated worse than the fully black ones.
 - Can only suspect who his father is. He has no true proof.
 - Were completely dehumanized on the plantation.
 - If they were more than "just property", then they will not be as good a slave.
 - Knew he had brothers and sisters on the plantation, but had no feelings for them.
 - When his mother died, he found out late, and did not even show emotion about it.
 - Living in Baltimore, the other kids began to teach him how to read. This was his first experience of building relationships.
 - 3.) p. 5A: First eyewitness of slave brutality.
 - At such a young age, witnessing a slave beating is unbelievable.
 - This seems to be the beginning of a long retaliation.
 - Children could see these beatings, become scared, learn from it, and do nothing wrong.
 - If slavery were to continue, the punishments would have to remain.
 - The slaves needed to feel inferior in order for slavery to work.
 - Even when Douglas was free and in New York, he was still scared, and didn't trust anyone.
 - 4.) p. 6B: Food and living conditions for slaves.
 - The living conditions were so incredibly unbearable and terrible.
 - Boys and girls had just one T-shirt to last them an entire year.
 - The slaves would fight each other over scraps of food – like pigs.
 - If the slave owners would ration the food right, the weak would die, and the next generation would grow stronger.
 - Limiting the amount of food a slave got, would limit the thought and physical action taken against a plantation and the slave owners.
 - This occurs because once you go hungry, you only think about how hungry you are.

- 5.) p. 12B: Slaves fought each other over who had the better master.
- No family ties. The only tie was their plantation and their owner.
 - The slaves were brainwashed into “knowing their place”.
 - Being sold to another plantation was seen as bad – you would be leaving the only family you know.
- 6.) p. 20B: Education inspires freedom.
- Hears his master tell his wife not to teach themselves to read. Realizes that education is the pathway out for slaves.
- 7.) p. 21A: City slaves vs. plantation slaves.
- Slavery was less severe in the cities than it was on the plantations.
 - There were more people living in the cities, so more people could see how you treat your slaves opposed to the plantations.
 - Slave owner’s wives even became victims of slavery. They were told not to teach the slaves, so they become mean and cruel as well.
 - It was hypocritical for slave owners to sit in church and think about what they do Monday through Saturday.
 - People against slavery, living in the North, probably had no idea as to the degree of slavery in the South.
 - Interesting how he didn’t reveal how he escaped. He did not name the kids who helped him read and learn.