

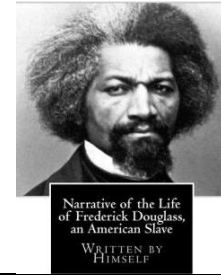
Name _____

Date _____

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

Intro to NotLoFD – Close Reading Excerpt 1 (of 5)

NotLoFD Chapter 1, paragraphs 1-5 & 8



Excerpt of Text – <i>First Read: Gist & Annotate</i>	Second Read Questions	Third Read Questions (TDQ/short-response)
1. I was born in Tuckahoe, near Hillsborough, and about twelve miles from Easton, in Talbot county, Maryland. I have no accurate knowledge of my age, never having seen any authentic record containing it. By far the larger part of the slaves know as little of their ages as horses know of theirs, and it is the wish of most masters within my knowledge to keep their slaves thus ignorant. I do not remember to have ever met a slave who could tell of his birthday. They seldom come nearer to it than planting-time, harvest-time, cherry-time, spring-time, or fall-time. A want of information concerning my own was a source of unhappiness to me Ignorant—not knowing facts you should know Seldom—not often	1. What do enslaved people not have knowledge about? 2. Who prevents enslaved people from having this knowledge?	Jot down your thoughts, keep reading for TDQs! 

Text – <i>First Read Gist & Annotate</i>	<i>Second Read Questions</i>	<i>Third Read Questions-TDQ/short-response</i>
2. My mother was named Harriet Bailey. She was the daughter of Isaac and Betsey Bailey, both colored, and quite dark. My mother was of a darker complexion than either my grandmother or grandfather.		
3. My father was a white man. He was admitted to be such by all I ever heard speak of my parentage. The opinion was also whispered that my master was my father; but of the correctness of this opinion, I know nothing; the means of knowing was withheld from me. My mother and I were separated when I was but an infant—before I knew her as my mother. It is a common custom, in the part of Maryland from which I ran away, to part children from their mothers at a very early age. Frequently, before the child has reached its twelfth month, its mother is taken from it, and hired out on some	3. Who was Frederick Douglass’s father?	1. This paragraph discusses Douglass’s parents. What does it show about how slavery affected children’s relationships with their parents? Jot down your thoughts, answer TDQ on the separate sheet of paper.  TDQ TIME!  Answer fully on separate sheet of paper.

Text - <i>First Read Gist & Annotate</i>	Second Read Questions	Third Read Questions - TDQs/short-response
farm a considerable distance off, and the child is placed under the care of an old woman, too old for field labor. For what this separation is done, I do not know, unless it be to hinder the development of the child's affection toward its mother, and to blunt and destroy the natural affection of the mother for the child. This is the inevitable result. Labor— Hinder— Blunt—worn down, less sharp Inevitable—certain to happen	4. Paraphrase this sentence into your own words: “He was admitted to be such by all I ever heard speak of my parentage.”	What do these words mean: “to blunt and destroy the natural affection of the mother for the child”? How do they add to the overall point of the paragraph? Jot down your thoughts, no TDQ 

Text – <i>First Read Gist & Annotate</i>	Second Read Questions	Third Read Questions – <i>TDQs/short-response</i>
4. I never saw my mother, to know her as such, more than four or five times in my life; and each of these times was very short in duration, and at night. She was hired by a Mr. Stewart, who lived about twelve miles from my home. She made her journeys to see me in the night, travelling the whole distance on foot, after the performance of her day's work. She was a field hand, and a whipping is the penalty of not being in the field at sunrise, unless a slave has special permission from his or her master to the contrary—a permission which they seldom get, and one that gives to him that gives it the proud name of being a kind master. I do not recollect of ever seeing my mother by the light of day. She was with me in the night. Duration— Penalty—punishment Seldom—not often		(TDQ next page) Jot down your thoughts 

Text – <i>First Read Gist & Annotation</i>	Second Read Questions	Third Read Questions – <i>TDQs/short-response</i>
She would lie down with me, and get me to sleep, but long before I waked she was gone. Very little communication ever took place between us. Death soon ended what little we could have while she lived, and with it her hardships and suffering. She died when I was about seven years old, on one of my master's farms, near Lee's Mill. I was not allowed to be present during her illness, at her death, or burial. She was gone long before I knew any thing about it. Never having enjoyed, to any considerable extent, her soothing presence, her tender and watchful care, I received the tidings of her death with much the same emotions I should have probably felt at the death of a stranger. Hardships— Tidings—news	6. What was Frederick Douglass's relationship with his mother like? 7. Paraphrase this sentence: “Never having enjoyed, to any considerable extent, her soothing presence, her tender and watchful care, I received the tidings of her death with much the same emotions I should have probably felt at the death of a stranger.”	2. Reread the following excerpt. <i>“Never having enjoyed, to any considerable extent, her soothing presence, her tender and watchful care, I received the tidings of her death with much of the same emotions I should have probably felt at the death of a stranger.”</i> Analyze the impact of Frederick Douglass' mother's death has on him. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.  TDQ TIME! Answer fully on the separate sheet of paper.

Text – <i>First Read Gist & Annotation</i>	Second Read Questions	Third Read Questions – <i>TDQs/short-response</i>
5. Called thus suddenly away, she [my mother] left me without the slightest intimation of who my father was. The whisper that my master was my father, may or may not be true; and, true or false, it is of but little consequence to my purpose whilst the fact remains, in all its glaring odiousness, that slaveholders have ordained, and by law established, that the children of slave women shall in all cases follow the condition of their mothers; and this is done too obviously to administer to their own lusts, and make a gratification of their wicked desires profitable as well as pleasurable; for by this cunning arrangement, the slaveholder, in cases not a few, sustains to his slaves the double relation of master and father. . . . Intimation—hint Odiousness- extremely unpleasant, hateful Ordained—ordered Condition— Administer to their own lusts—take care of their own (sexual) desires Cunning—clever Sustains—to make something continue to exist	8. Who did people think Douglass’s father was? 9. Are the children of enslaved mothers free or enslaved?	

Text – <i>First Read Gist & Annotation</i>	Second Read Questions	Third Read Questions – <i>TDQs/short-response</i>
6. I have had two masters. My first master’s name was Anthony. I do not remember his first name. He was generally called Captain Anthony—a title which, I presume, he acquired by sailing a craft on the Chesapeake Bay. He was not considered a rich slaveholder. He owned two or three farms, and about thirty slaves. His farms and slaves were under the care of an overseer. The overseer’s name was Plummer. Mr. Plummer was a miserable drunkard, a profane swearer, and a savage monster. He always went armed with a cowskin and a heavy cudgel. I have known him to cut and slash the women’s heads so horribly, that even master would be enraged at his cruelty, and would threaten to whip him if he did not mind himself. Cowskin—a whip made of leather		3. How does having power over enslaved people seem to affect the overseer and the owner?  TDQ TIME! Answer fully on the separate sheet of paper.

Text – <i>First Read Gist & Annotation</i>	Second Read Questions	Third Read Questions – <i>TDQs/short-response</i>
Master, however, was not a humane slaveholder. It required extraordinary barbarity on the part of an overseer to affect him. He was a cruel man, hardened by a long life of slaveholding. He would at times seem to take great pleasure in whipping a slave. I have often been awakened at the dawn of day by the most heart-rending shrieks of an own aunt of mine, whom he used to tie up to a joist, and whip upon her naked back till she was literally covered with blood. No words, no tears, no prayers, from his gory victim, seemed to move his iron heart from its bloody purpose. The louder she screamed, the harder he whipped; and where the blood ran fastest, there he whipped longest. Humane—treating people in a way that does not cause suffering Barbarity—cruelty Hardened— Joist—beam that supports the roof (in a house) Gory—	10. Who was cruel? 11. Who is being whipped?	6. What scene does Douglass vividly describe? Why do you think he describes it in such detail? How does this serve his purpose?

Text	Second Read Questions	Third Read Questions
He would whip her to make her scream, and whip her to make her hush; and not until overcome by fatigue, would he cease to swing the blood-clotted cowskin. I remember the first time I ever witnessed this horrible exhibition. I was quite a child, but I well remember it. I never shall forget it whilst I remember any thing. It was the first of a long series of such outrages, of which I was doomed to be a witness and a participant. It struck me with awful force. It was the blood-stained gate, the entrance to the hell of slavery, through which I was about to pass. It was a most terrible spectacle. I wish I could commit to paper the feelings with which I beheld it. Spectacle—	12. Rewrite the following sentence in your own words: “No words, no tears, no prayers, from his gory victim, seemed to move his iron heart from its bloody purpose.”	

Whole Excerpt PURPOSE: How does this excerpt support the two positions Douglass held about slavery that are listed below. Use details from the text to support your answer. Answer this extended response on your separate sheet of paper.

1. Slavery is terrible for enslaved people.
2. Slavery corrupts those who enslave others.