

Name _____

Frederick Douglass Study Guide / Chapters 7-9

Chapter 7

1. How did Mrs. Auld change and why did she change?
2. What plan did Frederick adopt to learn how to read now that Mrs. Auld was no longer teaching him?
3. Why is it ironic that he bribed little white boys to teach him to read?
4. What irony does Frederick find in this statement: "It is almost an unpardonable offence to teach slaves to read in this Christian country" ?
5. What did Frederick learn from the book "The Columbian Orator"?
6. How does Master Auld's prediction about Frederick and learning come true?
7. How does Frederick learn the meanings of the words "abolition" and "abolitionist"?
8. What do the two Irishmen encourage him to do? Why does he not trust them?
9. How does Frederick learn to write?
10. How does he trick the white boys into teaching him new letters?

Chapter 8

1. Why was Frederick forced to return to the plantation after the death of his master?
2. How was the value of the master's property determined? How were the slaves valued?
3. Why was the division of property between Mistress Lucretia and Master Andrew so horrifying to the slaves?
4. What happened to Frederick's grandmother after the deaths of Lucretia and Andrew? How does this anecdote help explain the value of the slaves? How are slaves valued when compared to livestock?
5. Who owns Frederick by the end of the chapter eight?
6. Why is Frederick forced to leave Baltimore?

Chapter 9

1. Why does Frederick now know the date?
2. Who is Frederick's newest Master?
3. What rule of slaveholding does Master Thomas Auld violate?
4. How did the slaves get food?
5. Why does Frederick say that "adopted slaveholders are the worst"?
6. What, according to Frederick, happens to Master Thomas Auld after his conversion to Christianity? Why?
7. Why does Frederick find irony in the fact that the slaves' Sabbath school is discontinued?
8. Why does Frederick let Master Thomas's horse run away?
9. Again, Frederick compares the treatment of slaves to the treatment of horses. How?
10. How does Master Thomas propose to "break" Frederick?
11. Why is the use of the verb "to break" ironic?
12. Why was Mr. Covey's reputation for breaking slaves of great value to him?
13. Why does Frederick suggest that Mr. Covey's "pious soul" adds to "his reputation as a '[slave]-breaker'"?