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Frederick Douglass Mid-Unit 1 Assessment

Directions: Read the text carefully. As you read highlight, circle, underline, and take gist notes to make sure you understand the text. Then answer the text-dependent questions.

Text

Notes

<p>1. In 1841, a runaway slave, a tall, handsome man named Frederick Douglass, speaks up at an abolitionist meeting on Nantucket Island, near Boston: "I felt strongly moved to speak. But the truth was, I felt myself a slave, and the idea of speaking to white people weighed me down."</p>	<p>he ran away and went to a abolition meeting and spoke up</p>
<p>2. Yet he finds the courage to speak out. Frederick Douglass just tells his own story: how he has lived and what he had seen. That is enough to send chills down the backs of his listeners. "I never saw my mother more than four or five times in my life," he says. "She made her journeys to see me in the night, traveling the whole distance on foot (twelve miles), 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. I do not recollect ever seeing my mother by the light of day."</p>	<p>he never saw his mom more than 4 times she would walk 12 miles to see him at nighttime</p>
<p>3. Young Frederick became determined to read and write. He traded bread with white boys for reading lessons. But when he was sent away to a cruel new master, he was beaten with a whip until he was bloody and scarred. He was not given enough to eat. He was sent into the fields to work long, long hours. He saw the terrible things that happen when one person has complete control over another. He says, "But for the hope of being free, I have no doubt that I should have killed myself."</p>	<p>he would give white boys bread or reading lessons. he got sent away and beaten he wasn't given enough food and forced to work</p>
<p>4. What happened next is all put down in a book he wrote called Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, American Slave But he didn't tell how he escaped to freedom. If he had, the slave catchers would have known how to capture others who were using the same route. Frederick Douglass kept telling people this simple truth: "Justice to the Negro is safety to the nation." And he said things like this: "People in general will say they like colored men as well as any other, but in their proper place. They assign us that place; they don't let us do it ourselves nor will they allow us a voice in the decision. They will not allow that we have a head to think, and a heart to feel and a soul to aspire. You degrade us, and then ask why we are degraded—you shut our mouths and then ask why we don't speak—you close your colleges and seminaries against us, and then ask why we don't know more."</p>	<p>never told how he escaped "Justice to the negro is safety to the nation" They make them feel less powerful by shutting them up won't let them learn.</p>

Questions

1. How did slavery affect Douglass' relationship with his mother? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

It effected it really bad. He never saw her more than four times. "She made her journeys to see me at night traveling the whole distance on foot (12 miles)." I think she really wanted to see him but she could not be caught.

2. All of the following are evidence that Douglass' master was cruel **except**

- a. He was beaten with a whip until he was bloody and scarred.
- b. He was not given enough to eat.
- ~~c. He traded bread with white boys for reading lessons.~~
- d. He was sent into the fields where he worked long, long hours.

3. What **argument is Douglass making** when he says, "You close your colleges and seminaries against us, and then ask why we don't know more?" Support your answer with evidence from the text.

I would believe that Douglass is saying that the call him dumb when they took away his right to learn. "He traded bread with white boys for reading lessons?" He wanted to prove them wrong and that he could be smart.

4. Which of the following conclusions about Douglass does the text provide **strong** evidence for?

- a. Douglass inspired many people to join the abolition movement.
- b. Douglass never overcame his sense of inferiority because he had been a slave.
- c. Douglass was very courageous.
- d. Douglass hated the U.S. because it allowed slavery.

Explain your answer to #4 in a well-written paragraph that uses evidence from the text.

I think that Douglass was very courageous because he stood up against white slave owners. He escaped slavery and stood up for all slaves. He wouldn't tell anyone where he went to escape so slaves wouldn't get caught. "I felt strongly moved to speak but the truth was, I felt like a slave, the idea talking to white people weighed me down." Even though he didn't like it he spoke on it because it's wrong.

Capture—to catch a person and keep him or her as prisoner

Aspire—to direct one's hopes toward achieving something

Degrade—to treat people without respect and make them lose respect for themselves

Seminaries—colleges for training priests or ministers

Abolitionist—person who fights to end slavery