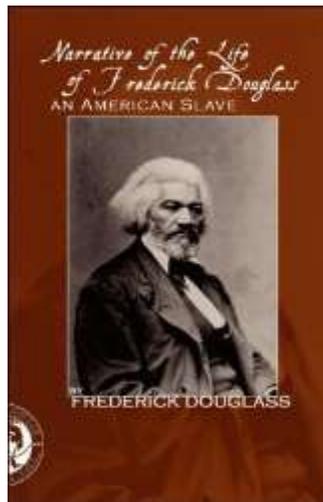




# **ENGLISH 3 AP**

# **SUMMER READING**



*2018-2019*

***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass**

## Open-Ended Reading Questions

1. How does Douglass portray the effects of slavery on masters and slaves? On the family? On religion (both black and white)? What happens to Douglass's grandmother? What happens to his own relationship with his mother? What happens to Mrs. Auld when she "learns" to be a slaveholder?
2. What kind of master/Christian is Covey? Why does Douglass choose to discuss the effects slavery had on white families and Christians?
3. Compare Douglass's portrayal of slavery on plantations (Lloyd's), farms (Freeland's and Covey's), and in the city (childhood and work at Fells Point shipyard). What are the most important differences? Are there any similarities?
4. Why is Douglass's fight with Covey the "turning point" in his life? What does he turn from and what does he turn toward?
5. What does Douglass tell us about the ways in which slaves used culture as a buffer against the de-humanizing aspects of slavery?
6. How does Douglass contrast the "free" North and the "slave" South at the end of his book? What had he been led to expect by his masters in the South? What kind of prosperity does he find in the North?

**AP – Essay**

*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* is an autobiography published in 1845, which depicts the life of a former slave who became a renowned public speaker, politician, educator, and anti-slavery advocate in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Abolitionists read and praised his anti-slavery message.

**Essay Prompt: How does Frederick Douglass make an effective argument against slavery?**

Please address this essay based upon Frederick Douglass' argument, and his use of techniques and strategies to create a persuasive argument. Your essay should be clear and detailed. Use the following questions as a guide in addressing the essay topic.

- How does Douglass present himself as an ethical and moral person to the reader?
- How does Douglas establish his credibility as a writer?
  - What evidence is provided to demonstrate Douglas is intelligent, well-informed, or knowledgeable?
  - Where does Douglas demonstrate that he is kind, sympathetic, or sensitive to

- others?
- Where does he demonstrate that he is an honest, moral, patriotic, or overall “good person”?
- How do any of these strategies help convince his audience of his overall argument?
- Provide evidence of examples Douglass uses to get emotional reactions from his readers.
  - Where does he try to make his readers feel specific emotions such as sadness, anger, sympathy, or other emotions?
  - How does Douglas create these feelings in his readers?
  - How does this convince his audience of his overall argument?
- Provide evidence of Douglass using examples and strategies that make logical sense to the reader.
  - Where does Douglass use techniques like compare and contrast, cause and effect, or analogy to show slavery is unjust?
  - Where does Douglass allude to literary or religious doctrines, or examine the historical, economic, or political impacts of slavery?
  - Where does he employ expert opinions, quotations, or similar evidence?
  - How do any of these strategies help convince his audience of his overall argument?