

Fredrick Douglas – Graded Discussion Topics

Group 1: Chapters 1 and 2

- “My master was my father.”
- “...blood-stained gate...”
- “They find less difficulty from the want of bed, than from the want of time to sleep...”
- “They told a tale of woe...” and “...the dehumanizing character of slavery.”

Group 2: Chapters 6 and 7

- “I was utterly astonished at her goodness” vs. “...fatal poison of irresponsible power was already in her hands”
- (de)value of an education
- country vs. city life of a slave
- “learning to read had been a curse”

Group 3: Chapters 8 and 11

- - valuation
- “all is gloom”
- “*upper-ground railroad*”
- changing a name
- life as a runaway slave living in the North – truly free?