

Response and Analysis



Reading Check

1. Why did Jacobs finally decide to escape?
2. What did Jacobs ask Sally to do for her at dawn?
3. What did Jacobs's grandmother tell Dr. Flint about the escape?
4. What did Dr. Flint assume Jacobs would try to do?
5. What advice did Jacobs receive from her brother William?



Literary Criticism

11. Political approach. Frederick Douglass (page 397) and Harriet Jacobs narrate two different episodes of slave life. Compare and contrast their situations, their actions, their emotions, and their opinions. How do their attitudes and views contribute to their credibility? In other words, what do they believe, and do you believe them?

Thinking Critically

6. How would you describe Jacobs's **character**? Find details in the text that reveal her character traits.
7. Describe how Jacobs resolved one of her **internal conflicts**. How did her decision affect the **external conflict** she faced?
8. Cite specific passages in Jacobs's narrative that illustrate the religious influences that affected Jacobs and her decisions.

Extending and Evaluating

9. Explain Jacobs's **purpose** in writing and publishing her story. Judging from this excerpt, do you think she achieved her purpose? Why or why not?
10. Jacobs's writing has been criticized as resembling too much the melodramatic novels popular in her time. Do you think her story rings true, or do you find parts of it sentimental? How might you change the language or alter her word choice to update the selection?

WRITING

Across the Lines

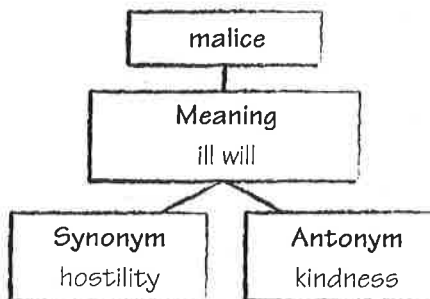
Imagine that Jacobs escaped to the North and sent a written message back to one of the characters in the excerpt—Sally, Betty, her grandmother, the woman who hid her in the storeroom, or Dr. Flint. Write the **message**, explaining Jacobs's motivations, expressing her feelings, and describing her plans and hopes for the future.

Vocabulary Development

Mapping Meanings

Create a word map like the one below for each of the remaining Vocabulary words. (Not all words will have an antonym.)

malice provocation compelled
fervently distressed impulse
unnerve cunning



Literary Skills

Analyze political points of view on a topic. Analyze internal and external conflict.

Writing Skills

Write a message or letter from the point of view of a character.

Vocabulary Skills

Create semantic maps with synonyms and antonyms.



Response and Analysis

Reading Check

1. What action did Douglass take after Covey struck him? What did Thomas order Douglass to do?
2. Explain how Sandy Jenkins helped Douglass.

Thinking Critically

3. The root Douglass carried was thought to have supernatural powers. What made him think the root was magical? What did he discover was more powerful than the root?
4. Based on this account, how would you **characterize** the young Frederick Douglass? Did he possess any of the qualities or attributes you noted in the Quickwrite? Explain.
5. Explain the **metaphor** implied in this line: "It [the battle with Covey] rekindled the few expiring embers of freedom." How is the metaphor related to the idea of rebirth?
6. At the end of the selection, Douglass distinguishes between being "a slave in form" and "a slave in fact." How does this distinction support the **theme** of this selection?
7. Think about Douglass's **purpose** in writing this narrative. Consider Douglass's **style**, including his objectivity and restraint in describing painful incidents. How does Douglass win over an audience that might be uneasy at the idea of a black man's fighting a white man?

Literary Criticism

8. **Political approach.** In every period of history, certain conditions and events shape the character of people who live during that time. How was Douglass influenced by slavery, and in what ways

does his story influence the institution of slavery?

WRITING

Douglass Writes Back

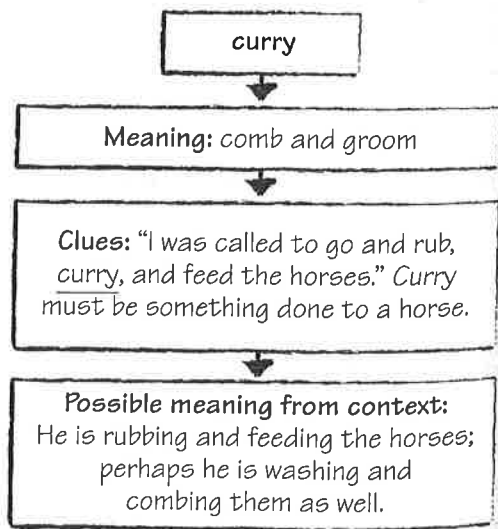
American literature abounds with writers who have championed principles of freedom—such as Jefferson, Paine, Emerson, and Thoreau. Write a **letter** in which Douglass responds to one of these writers. Have Douglass express his views on slavery and then comment on the author's writings and beliefs.

Vocabulary Development

Context Clues

intimated	afforded	singular
comply	solemnity	attributed
interpose	render	expiring

Look back at the selection now, and see if there are any clues in the **context** (the surrounding sentences) that would help you figure out the meaning of each underlined Vocabulary word. Record your findings in a chart like this one:



INTERNET

Projects and Activities

Keyword: LE5 11-4

SKILLS FOCUS

Literary Skills

Analyze political points of view on a topic. Analyze metaphor.

Reading Skills

Analyze a writer's purpose.

Writing Skills

Write a letter expressing political views.

Vocabulary Skills

Use context clues to determine the meanings of words.