

Chapter 1 : Garden of Praise: Frederick Douglass Biography

At the urging of Garrison, Douglass wrote and published his first autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, in The book was a best-seller in the United.

Frederick Douglass Bicentennial In his journey from captive slave to internationally renowned activist, Frederick Douglass has been a source of inspiration and hope for millions. His brilliant words and brave actions continue to shape the ways that we think about race, democracy, and the meaning of freedom. Frederick Douglass as a young man. He had a difficult family life. He barely knew his mother, who lived on a different plantation and died when he was a young child. He never discovered the identity of his father. When he turned eight years old, his slaveowner hired him out to work as a body servant in Baltimore. At an early age, Frederick realized there was a connection between literacy and freedom. Not allowed to attend school, he taught himself to read and write in the streets of Baltimore. At twelve, he bought a book called The Columbian Orator. It was a collection of revolutionary speeches, debates, and writings on natural rights. When Frederick was fifteen, his slaveowner sent him back to the Eastern Shore to labor as a fieldhand. He educated other slaves, physically fought back against a "slave-breaker," and plotted an unsuccessful escape. Frustrated, his slaveowner returned him to Baltimore. This time, Frederick met a young free black woman named Anna Murray , who agreed to help him escape. On September 3, , he disguised himself as a sailor and boarded a northbound train, using money from Anna to pay for his ticket. In less than 24 hours, Frederick arrived in New York City and declared himself free. He had successfully escaped from slavery. The home is now a National Historic Landmark. They decided that New York City was not a safe place for Frederick to remain as a fugitive, so they settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts. There, they adopted the last name "Douglass" and they started their family, which would eventually grow to include five children: Rosetta, Lewis, Frederick, Charles, and Annie. After finding employment as a laborer, Douglass began to attend abolitionist meetings and speak about his experiences in slavery. He soon gained a reputation as an orator, landing a job as an agent for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. The job took him on speaking tours across the North and Midwest. Still, some of his audiences suspected he was not truly a fugitive slave. In , he published his first autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, to lay those doubts to rest. The narrative gave a clear record of names and places from his enslavement. To avoid being captured and re-enslaved, Douglass traveled overseas. For almost two years, he gave speeches and sold copies of his narrative in England, Ireland, and Scotland. When abolitionists offered to purchase his freedom, Douglass accepted and returned home to the United States legally free. He relocated Anna and their children to Rochester, New York. In Rochester, Douglass took his work in new directions. He bought a printing press and ran his own newspaper, The North Star. In , he published his second autobiography, My Bondage and My Freedom, which expanded on his first autobiography and challenged racial segregation in the North. Frederick Douglass standing in front of his house on Capitol Hill, ca. He later purchased and moved to the suburban estate in Anacostia that he named Cedar Hill. He recruited African-American men to fight in the U. Army, including two of his own sons, who served in the famous 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. When black troops protested they were not receiving pay and treatment equal to that of white troops, Douglass met with President Abraham Lincoln to advocate on their behalf. As the Civil War progressed and emancipation seemed imminent, Douglass intensified the fight for equal citizenship. He argued that freedom would be empty if former slaves were not guaranteed the rights and protections of American citizens. A series of postwar amendments sought to make some of these tremendous changes. The 13th Amendment ratified in abolished slavery, the 14th Amendment ratified in granted national birthright citizenship, and the 15th Amendment ratified in stated nobody could be denied voting rights on the basis of race, skin color, or previous servitude. In , the Douglasses moved to Washington, D. There were multiple reasons for their move: Douglass had been traveling frequently to the area ever since the Civil War, all three of their sons already lived in the federal district, and the old family home in Rochester had burned. A widely known public figure by the time of Reconstruction, Douglass started to hold prestigious offices, including assistant secretary of the Santo Domingo Commission, legislative

council member of the D. Frederick Douglass as a statesman. Library of Congress Post-Reconstruction and Death After the fall of Reconstruction, Frederick Douglass managed to retain high-ranking federal appointments. He served under five presidents as U. Significantly, he held these positions at a time when violence and fraud severely restricted African-American political activism. On top of his federal work, Douglass kept a vigorous speaking tour schedule. Although the nation had made great strides during Reconstruction, there was still injustice and a basic lack of freedom for many Americans. He remarried in to Helen Pitts , an activist and the daughter of former abolitionists. The marriage stirred controversy, as Helen was white and twenty years younger than him. Part of their married life was spent abroad. He returned home to Cedar Hill in the late afternoon and was preparing to give a speech at a local church when he suffered a heart attack and passed away. He had remained a central figure in the fight for equality and justice for his entire life.

Chapter 2 : Frederick Douglass - HISTORY

David W. Blight's "Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom" is an ambitious and empathetic biography of a major American life.

Share Tweet Subscribe Born a slave, he rose to become a prominent abolitionist, statesman, author, and respected figure around the world. The most photographed African American of the 19th Century, he was also a recognizable figure even as his very identity put him at risk for much of his life. At birth, he was christened Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. The date he was born has been lost to history—but later in life he decided that February 14th would be the day on which he marked his entrance into the world. We do know, though, that Douglass was born into slavery in Maryland, likely the son of a union between his mother and their owner. But Douglass never really got to know his mother. It was common for infants born to slaves to be separated from their mothers soon after birth. He was sent to live with his grandmother, Betty Bailey. She was also the caretaker for twelve other children. It is not light that we need, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. At around age 7, Douglass was separated from the family he knew. At Wye Plantation he joined a thousand other slaves spread across twenty farms owned by Master Lloyd. While he was there, his mother died. And then Douglass was uprooted again. As a slave, Douglass was forced to move and to serve at the whims of his masters. This time, he was sent to Baltimore to serve the family of Hugh Auld in Baltimore. It was unusual for a slave owner to take so much interest in the education of a slave, and Hugh Auld did not like that his wife was doing so. Poster from Office of War Information. News Bureau, Plus, Auld thought that if slaves could read and write they would be more likely to want their freedom, and more likely to seek it. He taught himself to read, grabbing any publication he could that had words on it. Newspapers and political pamphlets joined books in his collection, and Douglass began to learn much more than just how to read—he was learning about the events of the country and world. Among the publications he devoured was *The Columbian Orator*. The book was an 18th century anthology that was used as a literacy teaching tool in classrooms. He started teaching other slaves from nearby plantations to read during Sunday School using the New Testament. Dozens of slaves would show up each week to learn. Amazingly, this went unnoticed for nearly six months. But when it was discovered that Douglass was teaching fellow slaves to read and write, the slave owners were beside themselves with anger. One Sunday, while Douglass was teaching the fuming owners burst into the makeshift school. They were intent that their slaves would not learn to read and write—and they used violence to get their point across. He was still a teenager when this happened, and already making his mark on the world. By the time Douglass hit his teens, he had also been moved from owner to owner and plantation to plantation several times already. In his late teens, Douglass was sent to be a slave for Edward Covey. Covey subjected Douglass to violence, regularly beating and whipping him. Under his heavy blows, blood flowed freely, and wales were left on my back as large as my little finger. The sores on my back, from this flogging, continued for weeks, for they were kept open by the rough and coarse cloth which I wore for shirting. One day, he fought back. He gave Covey a taste of his own medicine and the man never tried to use violence to control Douglass again. Beyond his own beliefs and desire for freedom, he had also met a woman who inspired him to seek freedom. The two later married. In , Douglass first attempted to escape from slavery. When his plan was discovered, he was thrown into jail. Returned to his owner, Douglass remained a slave for two more years before he was able to make another escape attempt. On September 3, , Douglass took the risk that he knew could either start his life as a free man, or end it all together. He had obtained papers showing him to be a free man, a risky move in and of itself. The papers belonged to a black sailor, and so Douglass had to act the part if he wanted to be successful. If an official stopped to closely consider the measurements and description, his journey to freedom would be over. Douglass boarded a train to Philadelphia, and, as expected, he faced an inspection. Douglass was free to stay on the train and continue his journey. But he still had to make it through slave states where he risked arrest. After an anxious journey, Douglass stepped off the train in New York and made his way to a group of Underground Railroad activists. He was in a free state, but not a free man. He was technically a fugitive, and

so could still be arrested. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them. Nevertheless, he was ecstatic to be in a free state. A new world had opened upon me. It was a time of joyous excitement which words can but tamely describe. She made her way up from Baltimore, and the two were married in New York. Within days, the couple was off further north to Massachusetts, where life was somewhat safer for a fugitive slave. There was still prejudice, however, and Douglass had to work hard to find even menial jobs to earn a living. Photograph of Anna Murray Douglass “, the first wife of Frederick Douglass While in New Bedford, Douglass became a licensed preacher, and he taught Sunday school and served as church sexton. He also became involved in the abolitionist movement. Through his nervousness, he gave an incredibly eloquent and thoughtful speech. Unlike the white abolitionists who gave most anti-slavery speeches, Douglass could speak personally about the pain and brutality of slavery. In , he joined the American Anti-Slavery Society to tour the midwestern United States and speak to the importance of abolishing slavery. They traveled for six months, spreading their message and, in doing so, often putting themselves in danger. I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence. This was two decades before the Civil War, and slavery supporters wanted to make themselves heard. They turned violent on some occasions, and Douglass had his hand broken during one melee in Indiana. He also wrote his autobiography, telling the story of what it was like to grow up and live as a slave. It had nine reprintings and was translated so it could be sold in Europe, too. The success of the book came at a cost, though. It attracted attention to Douglass “ and he was still not a free man in the eyes of the law. Instead of going into hiding in the United States, though, Douglass headed to Europe. There, he was safe from arrest and could continue spreading his message and telling his story. During a two year tour of England and Ireland he raised his profile both back home and in Europe. Crowds came to see him speak, and such was his appeal that his European supporters began raising money to buy his freedom in America. Douglass was also impressed with Europe. He was treated like a person there “ unlike he was at home. Instead of the bright, blue sky of America, I am covered with the soft, grey fog of the Emerald Isle. I breathe, and lo! I gaze around in vain for one who will question my equal humanity, claim me as his slave, or offer me an insult“ I find myself regarded and treated at every turn with the kindness and deference paid to white people. He started publishing his own paper “ The North Star “ and also took up causes of freedom beyond the abolitionist movement. He also became active in calling for the desegregation of schools “ a full century before Brown v. Board of Education was decided by the Supreme Court. Civil War Because of his activism and perpetual presence in the abolitionist and other movements, Douglass was a highly recognized figure in America when the Civil War began. During the war, Douglass was a fierce advocate of allowing African Americans to fight for the union. He used his publications and speeches to call for the inclusion of African Americans in the army. For two years he hammered on the issue. In , Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and African Americans were able to join the army. Douglass and his family were ready “ two of his sons signed up to fight, and a third became active in recruitment. Douglass himself shifted his message from encouraging the inclusion of African Americans in the military to encouraging African Americans to sign up to fight. He believed there was still much work to be done in the fight for freedom. He also continued speaking around the country, and was active in supporting Ulysses S. His fame and his outspoken activism still made him a target for sinister activities, however. The family was safe, but the fire showed that he “ nor his African American brethren “ was still not safe from violence even years after the civil war had ended. He and Anna lived in a home called Cedar Hill. Anna, his first love and his inspiration for his escape from slavery, died in Douglass remarried, this time to a much younger white woman.

Chapter 3 : Frederick Douglass Biography | Biography Online

Frederick Douglass (born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey; c. February - February 20,) was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman.

Visit Website After he was separated from his mother as an infant, Douglass lived for a time with his maternal grandmother. However, at the age of six, he was moved away from her to live and work on the Wye House plantation in Maryland. From there, he taught himself to read and write. By the time he was hired out to work under William Freeland, he was teaching other slaves to read, using the Bible. As word spread of his efforts to educate fellow slaves, Thomas Auld took him back and transferred him to Edward Covey, a farmer who was known for his brutal treatment of the slaves in his charge. Roughly 16 at this time, Douglass was regularly whipped by Covey. From there he traveled through Delaware, another slave state, before arriving in New York and the safe house of abolitionist David Ruggles. Once settled in New York, he sent for Anna Murray, a free black woman from Baltimore he met while in captivity with the Aulds. She joined him, and the two were married in September. They would have five children together. During these meetings, he was exposed to the writings of abolitionist and journalist William Lloyd Garrison. The two men eventually met when both were asked to speak at an abolitionist meeting, during which Douglass shared his story of slavery and escape. It was Garrison who encouraged Douglass to become a speaker and leader in the abolitionist movement. Douglass was physically assaulted several times during the tour by those opposed to the abolitionist movement. The injuries never fully healed, and he never regained full use of his hand. In it, he wrote: At the time, the former country was just entering the early stages of the Irish Potato Famine, or the Great Hunger. While overseas, he was impressed by the relative freedom he had as a man of color, compared to what he had experienced in the United States. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass-fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy – a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. Although he supported President Abraham Lincoln in the early years of the Civil War, Douglass would fall into disagreement with the politician after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862, which effectively ended the practice of slavery. Constitution which, respectively, outlawed slavery, granted free slaves citizenship and equal protection under the law, and protected all citizens from racial discrimination in voting, Douglass was asked to speak at the dedication of the Emancipation Memorial in Washington, D. In the post-war Reconstruction era, Douglass served in many official positions in government, including as an ambassador to the Dominican Republic, thereby becoming the first black man to hold high office. In the presidential election, he supported the candidacy of former Union general Ulysses S. Grant, who promised to take a hard line against white supremacist-led insurgencies in the post-war South. Grant notably also oversaw passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which was designed to suppress the growing Ku Klux Klan movement. Ultimately, though, Benjamin Harrison received the party nomination. Douglass remained an active speaker, writer, and activist until his death in 1895. Frederick Douglass Quotes, brainyquote.

Chapter 4 : Review: 'Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom,' by David W. Blight - calendrierdelascience.

Douglass's fame as an orator increased as he traveled. Still, some of his audiences suspected he was not truly a fugitive slave. In , he published his first autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, to lay those doubts to rest. The narrative gave a clear record of names and places from his enslavement.

African American abolitionist and publisher The most important African American abolitionist opponent of slavery in pre-Civil War America, Frederick Douglass was the first nationally known African American leader in U. Growing up without freedom Frederick Douglass was born in February on the eastern shore of Maryland. His exact date of birth remains unknown. His mother, from whom he was separated at an early age, was a slave named Harriet Bailey. She named her son Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. He never knew or saw his father. Frederick took the name Douglass much later. As a slave, Douglass was not allowed to have much of a childhood. He was separated from his parents, and he was forced to work hard and suffered cruel treatment while working on the property of Captain Aaron Anthony. In Anthony, who often hired his slaves out to others, decided to send Douglass to Baltimore, Maryland, to live with a man named Hugh Auld and his family. Auld was a northerner, and northern slaveholders generally did not treat their slaves as badly as people in the South did. She even taught young Douglass the basics of reading and writing until her husband stopped her. Even though things were a little better than they had been, Douglass was still unhappy with his situation and began to think of ways to change it. He was then hired out to a professional slave breaker, a man who would beat and mistreat slaves until they gave up and did whatever they were told. After weeks of being whipped, Douglass finally fought back; after that the whippings stopped. The Aulds then brought him back to Baltimore and put him to work in the shipyards. There in he borrowed the identification papers of an African American sailor. By passing himself off as the sailor, he was able to escape to New York. He adopted the name Douglass and married a free African American woman from the South. They settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where several of their children were born. Douglass tried to make a living doing manual labor, and he quickly became involved in the antislavery movement that was gaining strength in the North. In , at an abolitionist meeting in Nantucket, Massachusetts, he delivered a moving speech about his experiences as a slave and was immediately hired by the Massachusetts Antislavery Society to give lectures. Douglass was an eloquent speaker; that is, his speeches were well thought out and forceful, and he was able to inspire those who heard him. Some Harvard students who had heard him speak were so impressed that they persuaded him to write an autobiography the story of his life. The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass was published in Ten years later an enlarged autobiography, My Bondage and My Freedom, appeared. His third autobiography, Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, was published in and enlarged in National Archives and Records Administration. Fearing capture, Douglass fled to Britain, staying from to to speak on behalf of abolition and to earn enough money to purchase his freedom once he returned to America. Upon his return Douglass settled in Rochester, New York, and started a newspaper, North Star, which called for an end to slavery. The paper would continue to be published under various names until In , as a result of his fame and position as the voice of African Americans, Douglass was sought out by abolitionist John Brown Brown asked Douglass to help him in an attack on an arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, which he thought would help the antislavery cause. After all, they would be fighting for their own freedom. As the war proceeded, Douglass had several meetings with Lincoln to discuss the use and treatment of African American soldiers by the Union forces. As a result, the role of African American soldiers was upgraded each time, making them a more effective force in the fight. The end of the Civil War and the freeing of the slaves did not mean that Douglass was able to rest. The Reconstruction period, as the years after the Civil War came to be known, presented a new set of challenges for the country. While slavery had ended, the racism unequal treatment based on race that went along with slavery was still in place. He used the newspaper to make statements on these issues. Hayes to the post of U. From this time until approximately two years before his death Douglass held a succession of offices, including that of recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia and minister to the Republic of Haiti. He resigned his assignment in Haiti when he discovered that American businessmen were

taking advantage of his position in their dealings with the Haitian government. Frederick Douglass died in Washington, D. He had played a major role in changing history. After reaching his goal of escaping slavery, he could have lived out his days as a free man. Instead he risked it all by speaking out in favor of freedom and improved treatment for all African Americans. Keeping Faith in Jubilee. Louisiana State University Press, Edited by Michael McCurdy. The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass. Hartford, CT, Park Publishing, Reprint, Grand Rapids, MI: My Bondage and My Freedom. Miller, Orton and Mulligan, University of Illinois Press, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. Reprint, New Brunswick, NJ: Joseline Jun 2, 3:

Chapter 5 : David Blight on Frederick Douglass: 'I call him beautifully human' | Books | The Guardian

A Short Biography of Frederick Douglass Frederick Douglass was born in a slave cabin, in February, , near the town of Easton, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Separated from his mother when only a few weeks old he was raised by his grandparents.

In his autobiography *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, he states that his father was a white man, possibly the master of the plantation. He was separated from his mother when he was an infant. He only saw her four or five times in his life, and she died when he was about seven years old. Slavery images He tells of witnessing the beating of slaves by unmerciful masters. Slaves received a monthly allowance of food and a yearly allowance of clothing. Children too young to work only received two coarse linen shirts a year. If the shirts wore out, they had to go without clothes until time for the next allowance. Some of them were without clothing during the coldest months. Their beds, if you could call them beds, consisted of only one coarse blanket. Once when he was young he stole a bag used for carrying corn and crawled into it each night to try to keep warm. Frederick lived on the plantation of Colonel Lloyd. The Colonel had a large fine garden. In order to keep the slaves from stealing the fruit, he built a fence around it and put black sticky tar on it. If a slave was found with tar on him, he was whipped by the chief gardener. Some of the overseers were extremely cruel to the slaves in their charge. They could murder a slave and there would be no consequences. It was not considered a crime either by the courts or the community. The feeding of the slave children was similar to the feeding of pigs. Those who ate the fastest got the most. When he was seven or eight years old Frederick went to Baltimore to the home of Mr. Auld to care for their young son. There for the first time he found kindness. Auld who taught him his ABCs and how to read. She changed over time however, and at the insistence of her husband she quit teaching him. It was against the law for anyone to teach a slave to read. He was so eager to learn he befriended the white boys who knew how to read. The more he read, the more he began to detest the enslavers. As he describes it he felt like "a man in a pit with no ladder to get out". He knew that some day he would run away and be free, but first he had to learn how to write. He was hired out to a Mr. Covey to "break him" of his obstinance. The man was very cruel, but one day when Frederick fought back, things changed. Covey never whipped him again. This was the turning point. He knew that one day he must be a free man. He was sixteen years old at the time. He remained a slave for four more years. He had several fights but was never whipped again. He began a Sabbath school to teach the other slaves how to read and write. At one time he had over 40 students, mostly men and women. Frederick and four other slaves made plans to run away, but they were betrayed and ended up in prison for a time. Next he was apprenticed to a ship builder and learned the trade. He said it would have hurt him less if nothing had been returned because he knew rightfully he should have been able to keep the whole amount. He finally escaped and made his way to New York where a kindly man, Mr. David Ruggles, took him in. He sent for Anna, his intended wife, and they were married. He was able to find a job and worked joyfully in his new found freedom. After his book was published, he left the country for a time fearing his old master would try to get him back. He went to Ireland and spent two years in Great Britain. Friends in England raised money to purchase his freedom from Mr. After returning to America he began to publish an abolitionist newspaper *The North Star*. Within eight years he had 3, subscribers. He became a great orator, speaking out against slavery. His words and his writing were so effective that some people doubted they had been written by a former slave. On January 1, his dream was realized with the Emancipation Proclamation. Douglass had been instrumental in the formation of two black regiments during the war. Previously blacks were prevented from participating in the conflict. He and his wife Anna had five children, and they built a fine home in Washintgon D. After her death he married Helen Pitts, the daughter of a white abolitionist leader. She was twenty years younger than he, and the marriage faced a storm of criticism because of the race difference. Douglass home in Washington D. He died of heart failure after a speaking engagement to the National Council of Women in Washington, D. This biography by Patsy Stevens, a retired teacher, was written in

Chapter 6 : Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave - Wikipedia

Douglass, Frederick Frederick Douglass, oil painting by Sarah J. Eddy, ; in the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, Washington, D.C. National Park Service; At a Nantucket, Massachusetts, antislavery convention in , Douglass was invited to describe his feelings and experiences under slavery.

Douglass described her as a kind and tender-hearted woman, who treated him "as she supposed one human being ought to treat another". He later often said, "knowledge is the pathway from slavery to freedom. In later years, Douglass credited *The Columbian Orator*, an anthology that he discovered at about age twelve, with clarifying and defining his views on freedom and human rights. The book, first published in , is a classroom reader, containing essays, speeches and dialogues, to assist students in learning reading and grammar. When Douglass was hired out to William Freeland, he taught other slaves on the plantation to read the New Testament at a weekly Sunday school. As word spread, the interest among slaves in learning to read was so great that in any week, more than 40 slaves would attend lessons. For about six months, their study went relatively unnoticed. While Freeland remained complacent about their activities, other plantation owners became incensed about their slaves being educated. One Sunday they burst in on the gathering, armed with clubs and stones, to disperse the congregation permanently. Thomas Auld sent Douglass to work for Edward Covey, a poor farmer who had a reputation as a "slave-breaker". He whipped Douglass regularly, and nearly broke him psychologically. The sixteen-year-old Douglass finally rebelled against the beatings, however, and fought back. After Douglass won a physical confrontation, Covey never tried to beat him again. In , he tried to escape from his new master Covey, but failed again. In , Douglass met and fell in love with Anna Murray, a free black woman in Baltimore about five years older than he. Her free status strengthened his belief in the possibility of gaining his own freedom. Murray encouraged him and supported his efforts by aid and money. On September 3, , Douglass successfully escaped by boarding a train from the newly merged Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad P. This depot was replaced by the historic President Street Station, constructed "â€"; it was noted as a site of other slave escapes along one of many routes of the famous "Underground Railroad" and during the Civil War. Young Douglass reached Havre de Grace, Maryland, in Harford County, in the northeast corner of the state, along the southwest shore of the Susquehanna River, which flowed into the Chesapeake Bay. Although this placed him some 20 miles from the free state of Pennsylvania, it was easier to travel through Delaware, another slave state. From there, because the rail line was not yet completed, he went by steamboat along the Delaware River further northeast to the "Quaker City" of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an anti-slavery stronghold. His entire journey to freedom took less than 24 hours. I have often been asked, how I felt when first I found myself on free soil. And my readers may share the same curiosity. There is scarcely anything in my experience about which I could not give a more satisfactory answer. A new world had opened upon me. It was a time of joyous excitement which words can but tamely describe. In a letter written to a friend soon after reaching New York, I said: She brought with her the necessary basics for them to set up a home. They were married on September 15, , by a black Presbyterian minister, just eleven days after Douglass had reached New York. The couple settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts, in , later moving to Lynn, Massachusetts in . In New Bedford the latter was such a common name that he wanted one that was more distinctive, and asked Nathan Johnson to choose a suitable surname. He held various positions, including steward, Sunday School superintendent, and sexton. Inspired by Garrison, Douglass later said, "no face and form ever impressed me with such sentiments [of the hatred of slavery] as did those of William Lloyd Garrison. At another meeting, Douglass was unexpectedly invited to speak. After telling his story, Douglass was encouraged to become an anti-slavery lecturer. Then 23 years old, Douglass conquered his nervousness and gave an eloquent speech about his rough life as a slave. Buffum were thrown off an Eastern Railroad train because Douglass refused to sit in the segregated railroad coach. During this tour, slavery supporters frequently accosted Douglass. At a lecture in Pendleton, Indiana, an angry mob chased and beat Douglass before a local Quaker family, the Hardys, rescued him. His hand was broken in the attack; it healed improperly and bothered him for the rest of his life. At the time, some skeptics questioned whether a

black man could have produced such an eloquent piece of literature. The book received generally positive reviews and became an immediate bestseller. Within three years, it had been reprinted nine times, with 11,000 copies circulating in the United States. It was also translated into French and Dutch and published in Europe. Douglass published three versions of his autobiography during his lifetime and revised the third of these, each time expanding on the previous one. The Narrative was his biggest seller, and probably allowed him to raise the funds to gain his legal freedom the following year, as discussed below. They encouraged Douglass to tour Ireland, as many former slaves had done. Douglass set sail on the Cambria for Liverpool on August 16, 1845. He traveled in Ireland as the Irish Potato Famine was beginning. The feeling of freedom from American racial discrimination amazed Douglass: Eleven days and a half gone and I have crossed three thousand miles of the perilous deep. Instead of a democratic government, I am under a monarchical government. Instead of the bright, blue sky of America, I am covered with the soft, grey fog of the Emerald Isle [Ireland]. I breathe, and lo! I gaze around in vain for one who will question my equal humanity, claim me as his slave, or offer me an insult. I employ a cabâ€”I am seated beside white peopleâ€”I reach the hotelâ€”I enter the same doorâ€”I am shown into the same parlourâ€”I dine at the same tableâ€”and no one is offended I find myself regarded and treated at every turn with the kindness and deference paid to white people. His draw was such that some facilities were "crowded to suffocation". Douglass remarked that in England he was treated not "as a color, but as a man. It commemorates his speech there on October 9, 1845. Douglass also came to consider Garrison too radical. Garrison had burned copies of the Constitution to express his opinion. Douglass angered Garrison by saying that the Constitution could and should be used as an instrument in the fight against slavery. He suggested that the world would be a better place if women were involved in the political sphere. In this denial of the right to participate in government, not merely the degradation of woman and the perpetuation of a great injustice happens, but the maiming and repudiation of one-half of the moral and intellectual power of the government of the world. The article was two-fold: On the first count, Douglass acknowledged the "decorum" of the participants in the face of disagreement. The latter half discussed the primary document that emerged from the conference, a Declaration of Sentiments, and his own discussion of the "infant" feminist cause. Strikingly, he expressed the belief that "[a] discussion of the rights of animals would be regarded with far more complacency His opinion as the prominent editor of the paper likely carried weight, and he stated the position of the North Star explicitly: Douglass supported the amendment, which would grant suffrage to black men. Stanton argued that American women and black men should band together to fight for universal suffrage, and opposed any bill that split the issues. Douglass argued that white women, already empowered by their social connections to fathers, husbands, and brothers, at least vicariously had the vote. African-American women, he believed, would have the same degree of empowerment as white women once African-American men had the vote. Wagoner, and George Boyer Vashon. This led Douglass to become an early advocate for school desegregation. Douglass called for court action to open all schools to all children. He said that full inclusion within the educational system was a more pressing need for African Americans than political issues such as suffrage. Douglass believed that attacking federal property would enrage the American public. After the raid, Douglass fled for a time to Canada, fearing guilt by association as well as arrest as a co-conspirator. Douglass sailed back from England the following month, traveling through Canada to avoid detection. Photography Douglass considered photography very important in ending slavery and racism, and believed that the camera would not lie, even in the hands of a racist white, as photographs were an excellent counter to the many racist caricatures, particularly in blackface minstrelsy. He was the most photographed American of the 19th Century, self-consciously using photography to advance his political views. He tended to look directly into the camera to confront the viewer, with a stern look. In time, he became interested in literacy; he began reading and copying bible verses, and he eventually converted to Christianity. I was not more than thirteen years old, when in my loneliness and destitution I longed for some one to whom I could go, as to a father and protector. The preaching of a white Methodist minister, named Hanson, was the means of causing me to feel that in God I had such a friend. He thought that all men, great and small, bond and free, were sinners in the sight of God: I cannot say that I had a very distinct notion of what was required of me, but one thing I did know well: I was wretched and had no means of making myself otherwise. I consulted a good old colored man

named Charles Lawson, and in tones of holy affection he told me to pray, and to "cast all my care upon God. I loved all mankind, slaveholders not excepted, though I abhorred slavery more than ever. I saw the world in a new light, and my great concern was to have everybody converted. My desire to learn increased, and especially, did I want a thorough acquaintance with the contents of the Bible. Charles Lawson, and, early in his activism, he often included biblical allusions and religious metaphors in his speeches. Although a believer, he strongly criticized religious hypocrisy [74] and accused slaveholders of wickedness, lack of morality, and failure to follow the Golden Rule. He considered that a law passed to support slavery was "one of the grossest infringements of Christian Liberty" and said that pro-slavery clergymen within the American Church "stripped the love of God of its beauty, and leave the throne of religion a huge, horrible, repulsive form", and "an abomination in the sight of God".

Chapter 7 : SparkNotes: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

David Blight arrives in New York pulling his carry-on luggage, en route from Washington, soon to fly onwards to San Francisco. Such is the interest in his new biography of Frederick Douglass, a.

Abolitionist, civil rights activist, and writer Born: February in Talbot County, Maryland Died: February 20, in Washington, D. Former slave who became an advisor to the presidents Biography: Where did Frederick Douglass grow up? Frederick Douglass was born on a plantation in Talbot County, Maryland. His mother was a slave and when Frederick was born, he became a slave, too. His birth name was Frederick Bailey. He did not know who his father was or the exact date of his birth. He later picked February 14 to celebrate as his birthday and estimated that he was born in Life as a Slave Life as a slave was very difficult, especially for a child. At the young age of seven Frederick was sent to live at the Wye House plantation. He seldom saw his mother who died when he was ten years old. A few years later, he was sent to serve the Auld family in Baltimore. It was against the law at that time to teach slaves to read and when Mr. Auld found out, he forbid his wife to continue teaching Douglass. However, Frederick was an intelligent young man and wanted to learn to read. Over time, he secretly taught himself to read and write by observing others and watching the white children in their studies. Once Douglass had learned to read, he read newspapers and other articles about slavery. He began to form views on human rights and how people should be treated. He also taught other slaves how to read, but this eventually got him into trouble. He was moved to another farm where he was beaten by the slave owner in an effort to break his spirit. Escape to Freedom In , Douglass carefully planned his escape. He disguised himself as a sailor and carried papers that showed he was a free black seaman. On September 3, he boarded a train to the north. After 24 hours of travel, Douglass arrived in New York a free man. It was at this point that he married his first wife, Anna Murray, and took the last name Douglass. Douglas and Anna settled down in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Abolitionist In Massachusetts, Douglass met with people who were against slavery. These people were called abolitionists because they wanted to "abolish" slavery. Frederick began to speak at meetings about his experiences as a slave. He was an excellent speaker and moved people with his story. He became famous, but this also put him in danger of being captured by his former slave owners. To avoid being captured, Douglass traveled to Ireland and Britain where he continued to speak to people about slavery. Author Douglass wrote down his story of slavery in an autobiography called Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. The book became a bestseller. When the South announced that they would execute or enslave any captured black soldiers, Douglass insisted that President Lincoln respond. Eventually, Lincoln warned the Confederacy that for every Union prisoner killed, he would execute a rebel soldier. Douglass also visited with the U. Congress and President Lincoln insisting on equal pay and treatment of black soldiers fighting in the war. Death and Legacy Douglass died on February 20, from either a heart attack or a stroke. Interesting Facts about Frederick Douglass Douglass was married to his first wife Anna for 44 years before she died. They had five children. John Brown tried to get Douglass to participate in the raid on Harpers Ferry , but Douglass thought it was a bad idea. He worked with President Andrew Johnson on the subject of black suffrage the right to vote. He once said that "No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck. Listen to a recorded reading of this page: Your browser does not support the audio element. To learn more about Civil Rights:

Chapter 8 : SparkNotes: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: Chapters 1-11

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass that was is a memoir by Frederick Douglass that was first published in

Chapters 1-4 [edit] Douglass begins by explaining that he does not know the date of his birth he later chose February 14, , and that his mother died when he was 7 years old. He has very few memories of her children were commonly separated from their mothers , only of the rare night time visit. He thinks his father is a white man, possibly his owner. At a very early age he sees his Aunt Hester being whipped. Douglass details the cruel interaction that occurs between slaves and slave holders, as well as how slaves are supposed to behave in the presence of their masters, and even when Douglass says that fear is what kept many slaves where they were, when they tell the truth they are punished by their owners. Chapters 5-7 [edit] Frontispiece of Douglass from the first edition At this point in the Narrative, Douglass is moved to Baltimore , Maryland. This move is rather important for him because he believes that if he had not been moved, he would have remained a slave his entire life. He even starts to have hope for a better life in the future. He also discusses his new mistress, Mrs. Sophia Auld, who begins as a very kind woman but eventually turns cruel. Douglass learns the alphabet and how to spell small words from this woman, but her husband, Mr. Auld, disapproves, and states that if slaves could read, they would not be fit to be slaves, being unmanageable and sad. Upon hearing why Mr. Auld disapproves of slaves being taught how to read, Douglass realizes the importance of reading and the possibilities that this skill could help him. He takes it upon himself to learn how to read and learn all he can, but at times, this new found skill torments him. Douglass then gains an understanding of the word abolition and develops the idea to run away to the North. He also learns how to write and how to read well. The slaves are valued along with the livestock , causing Douglass to develop a new hatred of slavery. He feels lucky when he is sent back to Baltimore to live with the family of Master Hugh. He is then moved through a few more situations before he is sent to St. His regret at not having attempted to run away is evident, but on his voyage he makes a mental note that he traveled in the North-Easterly direction and considers this information to be of extreme importance. For some time, he lives with Master Thomas Auld who is particularly cruel, even after attending a Methodist camp. He is pleased when he eventually is lent to Mr. Covey for a year, simply because he would be fed. Covey is known as a "negro-breaker", who breaks the will of slaves. Chapters 10-11 [edit] While under the control of Mr. He is harshly whipped almost on a weekly basis, apparently due to his awkwardness. He is worked and beaten to exhaustion, which finally causes him to collapse one day while working in the fields. Because of this, he is brutally beaten once more by Covey. Douglass eventually complains to Thomas Auld, who subsequently sends him back to Covey. A few days later, Covey attempts to tie up Douglass, but he fights back. After a two-hour long physical battle, Douglass ultimately conquers Covey. After this fight, he is never beaten again. Douglass is not punished by the law, which is believed to be due to the fact that Covey cherishes his reputation as a "negro-breaker", which would be jeopardized if others knew what happened. Douglass comments on the abuse suffered under Covey, a religious man, and the relative peace under the more favorable, but more secular, Freeman. Douglass and a small group of slaves make a plan to escape, but before doing so, they are caught and Douglass is put in jail. Following his release 2 years later, he is sent to Baltimore once more, but this time to learn a trade. He becomes an apprentice in a shipyard under Mr. Gardener where he is disliked by several white apprentices due to his slave status and race; at one point he gets into a fight with them and they nearly gouge out his left eye. Woefully beaten, Douglass goes to Master Hugh, who is kind regarding this situation and refuses to let Douglass return to the shipyard. Master Hugh tries to find a lawyer but all refuse, saying they can only do something for a white person. Sophia Auld, who had turned cruel under the influence of slavery, feels pity for Douglass and tends to the wound at his left eye until he is healed. At this point, Douglass is employed to be a caller and receives wages, but is forced to give every cent to Master Auld in due time. Douglass eventually finds his own job and plans the date in which he will escape to the North. He succeeds in reaching New Bedford , but does not give details of how he does so in order to protect those who helped him and to allow the possibility for other slaves escape by similar means. He attends an anti-slavery convention and eventually becomes a well-known orator and

abolitionist. Publication history[edit] Douglass, photographed between and The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass was published on May 1, , and within four months of this publication, five thousand copies were sold. By , almost 30, copies were sold. One of the more significant reasons Douglass published his Narrative was to offset the demeaning manner in which white people viewed him. When he spoke in public, his white abolitionist associates established limits to what he could say on the platform. More specifically, they did not want him to analyze the current slavery issues or to shape the future for black people. However, once Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass was published, he was given the liberty to begin more ambitious work on the issue rather than giving the same speeches repetitively. Because of the work in his Narrative, Douglass gained significant credibility from those who previously did not believe the story of his past. While in Ireland the Dublin edition of the book was published by the abolitionist printer Richard D. Webb to great acclaim and Douglass would write extensively in later editions very positively about his experience in Ireland. His newfound liberty on the platform eventually led him to start a black newspaper against the advice of his "fellow" abolitionists. One of his biggest critics, A. Thompson, was a neighbor of Thomas Auld, who was the master of Douglass for some time. As seen in "Letter from a Slave Holder" by A. Thompson, found in the Norton Critical Edition of Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, he claimed that the slave he knew was "an unlearned, and rather an ordinary negro". Thompson was confident that Douglass "was not capable of writing the Narrative". He also disputed the Narrative when Douglass described the various cruel white slave holders that he either knew or knew of. Prior to the publication of Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, the public could not fathom how it was possible for a former slave to appear to be so educated. Upon listening to his oratory, many were skeptical of the stories he told. She claimed, "we have never read [a narrative] more simple, true, coherent, and warm with genuine feeling".

Chapter 9 : Frederick Douglass - Wikipedia

FREDERICK DOUGLASS Prophet of Freedom By David W. Blight Illustrated. pp. Simon & Schuster. \$ The alchemy that transformed an unknown fugitive slave named Frederick Douglass into one of.

See Important Quotations Explained Douglass was born in Talbot County, Maryland, though he does not know the year, as most slaves are not allowed to know their ages. Douglass remembers being unhappy and confused that white children knew their ages, but he was not allowed even to ask his own. He estimates, based on an overheard comment from his master, that he was born in or around 1793. Douglass is separated from his mother soon after birth—a common practice among slave owners. Douglass assumes that this custom is intended to break the natural bond of affection between mother and child. He recalls that he only saw his mother on the rare occasions when she could walk twelve miles after dark to lie next to him at night. Harriet dies when Douglass is about seven. He is told about it afterward and is hardly affected by the news. Douglass knows only that his father is a white man, though many people say that his master is his father. He explains that slaveholders often impregnate their female slaves. Thus slaveholders actually profit from this practice of rape, as it increases the number of slaves they own. Douglass considers that the existence of such a large population of mixed-race slaves contradicts arguments that justify American slavery through the supposed inferiority of the African race. Plummer, is a drunk and a cruel man who carries a whip and cudgel with him and often uses them on slaves. The Captain himself is cruel as well. Douglass recalls feeling like both a witness to and a participant in the abuse the first time he ever saw it. He remembers this moment as his introduction into the hellish world of slavery. Douglass recalls a particularly violent episode of the Captain whipping Aunt Hester. Douglass implies that the Captain has a particular sexual interest in Hester, who is quite beautiful. The Captain brings Hester home, strips her to the waist, ties her, and whips her until her blood drips on the floor. Young Douglass is so terrified by the scene that he hides in a closet, hoping he will not be whipped next. They all live together in one house on a central plantation owned by Colonel Lloyd. Captain Anthony and his son-in-law, Captain Auld, take the goods by ship to sell in Baltimore.