

Montgomery Blair High School

Communication Arts Program Summer Reading Project

History:

Read *Triangle: The Fire that Changed America* by David Von Drehle **OR** *Red Summer: The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America* by Cameron McWhirter and answer the questions associated with the book you chose to read.

A) The first 4 chapters of the book describe life in New York City during the Gilded Age (1890-1914). Using information from these chapters, write answers for each of the following prompts. Each answer will require a developed paragraph. For each answer you will need to have two (2) quotes from the book which support your analysis. Each quote will be followed by the page number in parenthesis. For example: "Senderman noticed Teschner on the smoke-shrouded roof, 'shivering like a fish,' crying like a baby,' and ready to jump over the side" (137).

1. What role did Tammany Hall play in New York politics and society during this period?
2. What role did women play in New York in organizing unions and promoting female suffrage?
3. Briefly describe the garment industry in New York.
4. Analyze the "Uprising" in terms of whether it succeeded or failed and explain why.
5. Describe one significant aspect of the life of Eastern European immigrants during this time period.

B) Chapters 5,6 &7 describe the actual fire and its immediate aftermath based on the recollections of survivors. Based on these, create your own account of the fire from the perspective of one of the first firemen to arrive on the scene. It should be written as a diary entry and be no more than one page and no shorter than a half page in length.

C) Chapters 8 & 9 detail the consequences of the fire. For each of the questions below write a developed paragraph (6-8 sentences with a topic sentence).

- 1) Describe the major reforms that resulted from the fire.
- 2) Why did this event have such a profound effect, when similar events before the Triangle Fire had little or no effect?
- 3) What were the results of the "Trial"? Why does the author think the "Trial" ended that way? What do you think about the results?

***Red Summer: The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America* Reading Questions**

Chapters 2 and 3 [Answer the following with short constructed responses (3-5 sentences each)]

1. How were the attitudes of African Americans transformed by WWI and the Great Migration?
2. What other events outside of the United States led to many to conclude that the world was on fire? Name at least 2 and explain how they affected American attitudes.

Chapters 4 &5 (Answer these questions with short 1-2 sentence responses)

3. Who founded the NAACP? In what ways was it different from other African American advocacy groups?

4. What impact did the National Conference of Lynching have on the NAACP? Explain in a brief paragraph.

Chapters 6- 11 [Answer the following with short constructed responses (3-5 sentences- each should begin with a well-developed topic sentence that clearly takes a position in response to the question)]

5. Compare how local government officials and military leaders responded to riots in Charleston, SC with those in Ellisville, Mississippi, Jacksonville, Florida and Washington D.C.

6. According to Harry A Bellows, author of "Treatise of Riot Duty for the National Guard" what was the key to controlling riots?

7. How did Carlo Valdinoci impact J. Edgar Hoover and Alexander Mitchell Palmer's political agenda? How did the change in each government official's political views impact race relations?

8. What do books like *The Klansman* and *The Decline of the West* tell us about white attitudes towards race and the new immigrants of the early 20th century? Explain.

9. How did black attitudes towards whites change in 1919 as a result of the mob violence, the Great Migration and WWI? Read Claude McKay's "If We Must Die" and analyze poem in response to the question.

10. Describe President Wilson's attitudes towards African Americans. What policies did he implement that help the reader better understand his attitude.

Chapters 12-14:

11. Imagine you are the mayor of Chicago. Write a journal entry describing race relations in Chicago, who or what is to blame for the race riots and how you intend to prevent future race riots. (2-3 paragraphs)

Chapter 15-18: (1 well developed paragraph)

12. How did the NAACP come to be the principle organization to advocate on behalf of black civil rights?

Chapter 19-The End:

Speculate why the race riots of the 1919 receive scant mention in most US History books.

Study Guide: *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass as American Slave**

The responses to these questions are due to **Dr. Simel (English teacher)** on the first day of school. Responses are to be typed. Please double space and staple your responses in the upper left hand of the paper. Grammar ALWAYS counts. If the question is in present tense, the response should be in present tense. Please use 10 or 12 pt. font. Questions edited from:

Reed, Arthea, Ph.D. "A Teacher's Guide of the Signet Classic Edition of Frederick Douglass's *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass An American Slave*." *Signet Classic*. Penguin, n.d. Web. 26 May 2016. <<http://www.penguin.com/static/pdf/teachersguides/narrative.pdf>>.

Chapter I

1. Why is Douglass not sure when he was born?
2. Why would slaveholders want to keep a slave ignorant of his/her date of birth?
3. Why does Douglass make the point that a slaveholder has fathered a child is likely to be tougher on that child?
4. Why does Douglass only rarely see his mother?

Chapter II

5. Describe the "pecking order of the slaves."
6. Why would an ill-treated slave be fearful of being sold to a slave-trader?

Chapter III

7. What is ironic about Colonel Lloyd's treatment of his horses compared to the treatment of his slaves?
8. What is a maxim? Identify one in this chapter.

Chapter IV

9. Give examples of Douglass statement that "killing a slave, or any colored person...is not treated as a crime, either by the courts or the community."

Chapter V

10. What is life like for Douglass on the plantation?
11. Why is Douglass so happy to leave the plantation?
12. Why does he Douglass especially want to go to Baltimore?

Chapter VI

13. Douglass calls Mr. Auld's forbidding of his learning how to read "invaluable instruction"? What valuable lesson does Douglass learn?
14. Why does a man/woman's illiteracy keep men/women enslaved, according to both Douglass and Mr. Auld?
15. Why does Douglass want to learn how to read?

16. Why is the life of a city slave so much better than the life of a plantation slave?
17. What is the importance of Douglass's relating the story of Henrietta and Mary?

Chapter VII

18. How does Mrs. Auld change and why does she change?
19. What plan does Douglass make to learn how to read?
20. What irony does Douglass find in this statement: "It is almost an unpardonable offense to teach get slaves to read in this Christian country."?
21. How does Auld's prediction about Douglass and learning come true?
22. How does Douglass trick the white boys into teaching him new letters?

Chapter VIII

23. How was the value of a slaveholder's property determined? How were slaves valued?
24. Why is the division of property between Lucretia and Andrew so horrifying to the slaves?

Chapter IX

25. What rule of slaveholding does Auld violate?
26. How do the slaves get food?
27. According to Douglass, what happens to Thomas Auld after his conversion to Christianity? Why?
28. How does Douglass again compare the treatment of slaves to the treatment of horses?
29. Why does Douglass suggest that Covey's "pious soul" adds to "his reputation as a 'nigger-breaker'"?

Chapter X

30. What does Douglass mean by "Mr. Covey's forte consisted in his power to deceive"?
31. How does Douglass become a man?
32. Why does Douglass think that Covey does not turn him in?
33. How are the holidays used to "disgust the slave with freedom"?
34. What is Douglass's point about the two religious slaveholders, Hopkins and Weeden?
35. Why does Douglass include the slaves in his Sabbath school in his plans to become free? Why is this dangerous?
36. Douglass makes the point that many slaves would "rather bear those ills we had, than fly to others, that we knew not of." How does this help explain why so few slaves escaped?

Chapter XI

37. For what two reasons can Douglass not relate how he escaped?
38. What arrangement does Douglass make with Hugh? Why is this arrangement to Hugh's advantage? Why does Douglass agree to it?
39. Why does Douglass decide to work hard despite the dissolution of this agreement?
40. How is it possible for Douglass and Anna to marry? Why is their marriage so important?
41. Why does Douglass change his name so many times? Who chooses Douglass and why?
42. What had Douglass believed about life in the North? Was he correct? What does he find about life in the North?
43. What conditions does he find for "colored people"?
44. What does Douglass discover about prejudice in New Bedford?

45. How does Douglass become known in the “anti-slavery world”?

46. Why is Douglass at first reluctant to speak against slavery?

Appendix

47. Why do you think Douglass added the Appendix?

48. What does he mean by “slaveholding religion”?

49. Why does Douglass think that the church turns the other cheek on the treatment of slaves?

50. How does he criticize the church of the North?