

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Crossley

\_\_ LA Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Frederick Douglass: Learning to Read and Write  
Text Analysis**

1. Read and re-read the text and highlight words/phrases in the text that reveal Douglass's attitude toward his mistress, slavery, reading, and writing.
  - a. In **green**, highlight phrases revealing his attitude toward his **mistress**.
  - b. In **yellow**, highlight phrases revealing his attitude toward **slavery**.
  - c. In **pink**, highlight phrases revealing his attitude toward **reading**.
  - d. In **orange**, highlight phrases revealing his attitude toward **writing**.

\*You may change the colors if you need to as long as you also change them on this paper.

**Answer the following questions using complete sentences. Answer all parts of the question.**

2. How does Douglass learn to read and write? Do you consider his action dangerous? Why or why not?

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3. How do the language Douglass uses throughout the text, the examples he provides, and the way he structures the text convey a central idea?

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4. Select a "character" from Douglass's account. How does this person (or group) influence and affect Douglass? What is Douglass's opinion of this person (or group)? How does he reveal his opinion?

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5. What does Douglass value? How do you know? Determine and explain Douglass's point of view based on an evaluation of his tone, claims, and evidence? What is Douglass's purpose in writing this text?

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6. In paragraph 7, Douglass indicates how he learned the word *abolitionist*. Explain the significance of both this word and the process he used to learn it.

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7. The main focus of this passage is the process by which Douglass began to become literate. Who else in the passage undergoes a "learning" process, and what are the results?

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8. What role did censorship play in Douglass's life?

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