

10th Grade Honors ELA

Week 4: May 11 - May 17

The Narrative of *The Life of Frederick Douglass*

Chapter Four's Essential Question: How does dehumanization render a person powerless?

Assignment One:

Write to the EQ: Dehumanization is the process of removing or denying a person of *human qualities*. How were slaves dehumanized? Use examples from the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

Read the PDF or listen to the audio or both for chapter Four.

Audio:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H88nNSTjddU>

PDF:

<https://www.studenthandouts.com/00/200701/douglass.pdf>

Assignment Two:

Text Dependent Questions: Respond to the following questions using complete sentences. Be thorough. (use evidence from the text to support your answer for each question):

1. Why is Mr. Austin Gore seen as a "first-rate overseer"? Why is this description ironic?
2. What does Douglass mean when he says, "'He dealt sparingly with his words, and bountifully with his whip, never using the former where the latter would answer as well.'" How do Mr. Gore's actions reflect the slaveholders' maxim?
3. Douglass states that Mr. Gore's crime "was not even submitted to judicial investigation." Why?

Read about the rhetorical strategies used in this chapter

Douglass structures this chapter by moving from a general recounting of the deeds of an overseer, Mr. Gore, who was considered an exemplary slave manager in eyes of the white community, to more specific accounts of individual incidents in which slaves suffered, with an emphasis on the unprosecuted murders of slaves.

Douglass's diction is precise and erudite but clear. He writes using a balanced, eighteenth century prose style. While passion comes through in some of his word choices, such as "barbaric," the detached diction puts Douglass at a distance from what he is describing. This is an effective device, as it allows the reader space to feel the emotions Douglass steps back from. An example of his measured prose would be as follows, outlining the character of Mr. Gore:

He was cruel enough to inflict the severest punishment, artful enough to descend to the lowest trickery, and obdurate enough to be insensible to the voice of a reproving conscience.

The word choices are harsh and emotional.

Source: "Express how the use of diction and structure help achieve the purpose of Chapter 4 in *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. How do these show the brutality of slavery when juxtaposed against Chapter 3?" *eNotes Editorial*, 29 Jan. 2017, <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/express-how-use-diction-structure-help-achieve-881496>. Accessed 11 May 2020.