



## FAITH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

### Ninth Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2023

1. Each student will read the following:

- *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, by Frederick Douglass
- Students are expected to make **marginal** and **textual** notes as they read to show evidence of “active” reading, and they should clearly mark any parts of the text where they have questions. **Pay special attention to Douglass’s words about religion. (Annotations are worth 50 points, so be THOROUGH.)**
- **Students should also answer the comprehension questions (handout).**
- During the first week of class, students will prepare for a paper on the “the slaveholding religion of the South.”

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2. Each student will also read one book chosen from the Grade 10-11 Book List (attached at the end of this document). For that book, the student will complete a five-paragraph essay, to be turned in on the first day of school. Students may write their essays on one of the following topics:

1. A comparison between two of the major characters, **using specific examples from the text. Examples must be cited in MLA format, whether or not they are quoted.**
2. An explanation of a major theme of the book **with supporting quotes. Examples must be cited in MLA format, whether or not they are quoted.**
3. A discussion of setting (time, place, mood/atmosphere) with **specific examples of how the setting advances the plot. Examples must be cited in MLA format, whether or not they are quoted.**
4. For non-fiction: A description of challenges faced and how they were overcome, **using specific examples from the text. Examples must be cited in MLA format, whether or not they are quoted.**

Checklist for summer essay:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Paper is typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paper is double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paper has a title and page numbers
- \_\_\_\_\_ All quotations from the text are cited in MLA format: **(Author last name page number)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paper contains a Works Cited page\*

\*The Works Cited Entry for a book (with no editor or translator):

Author Last Name, Author First Name. *Title*. Publisher, publication  
date. **(NOTE THE HANGING INDENT FOR A WORKS CITED ENTRY!)**

Ms. Weeks can be reached during the summer at [mweeks@fcsva.com](mailto:mweeks@fcsva.com).

Summer Reading questions on next page

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Rising Ninth Grade Summer Reading Assignment for the required reading of  
*A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, by Frederick Douglass**

**Instructions:** As you read each chapter, answer the following questions **IN COMPLETE SENTENCES. CITE the page number for your answers in parentheses. The period goes AFTER the citation (Example: (24).):**

**Chapter 1**

1. What is Frederick's last name at birth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why would slaveholders want to keep a slave ignorant of the date of his birth?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 2**

Why would a slave whose life on a plantation was very bad fear being sold to a slave-trader?

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**Chapter 3**

What happened to the slave who told Colonel Lloyd the truth about his master? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 4**

What reason does Mr. Gore give for killing Demby the slave? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 5**

Why did Frederick particularly want to go to Baltimore? \_\_\_\_\_

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What were Frederick's initial impressions of his new mistress, Mrs. Sophia Auld? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Chapter 6**

Why does inability to read keep men enslaved, according to Frederick and to Mr. Auld? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does Frederick hope to gain by learning how to read? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why is the life of a city slave so much better than the life of a plantation slave? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Chapter 7**

What did Frederick learn from the book "The Columbian Orator"? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Chapter 8**

Why was Frederick forced to return to the plantation after the death of his master? \_\_\_\_\_

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What happened to Frederick's grandmother after the deaths of Lucretia and Andrew? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does this anecdote help explain the value of slaves? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Chapter 9**

What, according to Frederick, happens to Master Thomas Auld after his conversion to Christianity? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does Master Thomas propose to 'break' Frederick? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Chapter 10**

What does Frederick mean by "Mr. Covey's forte consisted in his power to deceive"? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why does Mr. Covey buy a slave to use as a breeder? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why is Frederick's battle with Mr. Covey "the turning-point in my career as a slave"? \_\_\_\_\_

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How are the holidays used to "disgust the slave with freedom"? \_\_\_\_\_

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What must Frederick do with the wages he earns each week as a caulker? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Chapter 11**

For what two reasons does Frederick tell us that he cannot relate the means of his escape? 1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

When and to where does Frederick run away? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is Frederick's marriage such an important event? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did Frederick change his name so many times? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Douglass discover about prejudice against color in New Bedford? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is Douglass at first reluctant to speak out against slavery? \_\_\_\_\_

**What did you learn from reading Frederick Douglass's *Narrative*? \_\_\_\_\_**

## Grades 8-9 Summer Reading Lists

### Fiction

**Author**      **Title**

Anderson	<i>Chains</i>
Christie	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>
Cooper	<i>Last of the Mohicans</i>
Dickens	<i>Oliver Twist</i>
Eliot	<i>Silas Marner</i>
Forster	<i>A Passage to India</i>
Mallory	<i>Le Morte d' Arthur</i>
Shelley	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Twain	<i>Puddin'head Wilson</i>

### Non-Fiction

**Author**      **Title**

Blatner	<i>The Joy of Pi</i>
Freedman	<i>The War to End All Wars</i>
Lansing	<i>Endurance</i>
Murphy	<i>An American Plague</i>
Stone	<i>Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream</i>