

***The Narrative of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass (Published by Dover)**

Approved for use in Advanced Placement Communication Arts III and Communication Arts III

Summary

"Former slave, impassioned abolitionist, brilliant writer, newspaper editor and eloquent orator whose speeches fired the abolitionist cause, Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) led an astounding life. Through sheer force of character he was able to overcome enormous odds to become a leading spokesman for his people. In this, the first and most frequently read of his three autobiographies, Douglass provides graphic descriptions of his childhood and horrifying experiences as a slave as well as a harrowing record of his dramatic escape to the North and eventual freedom. This narrative is admired today for its extraordinary passion, sensitive and vivid descriptions, and storytelling power." Dover Press

Connection to the Curriculum

The Narrative of Frederick Douglass offers the unique perspective of the slave's voice during one of the most tumultuous periods in American history. As an authentic memoir, this book provides students with the opportunity to examine the realities of slavery. Additionally, Douglass' voice is eloquent and powerful, allowing for close examination of his diction, syntax, and tone. In addition to the poignant descriptive passages, Douglass has much to say about the value of reading and the effect that reading had on his desire for freedom. This book is an integral part of the American Literary canon and a quintessential example of the abolitionist slave narrative.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

Writing: 3.5- The students use authentic and appropriate voice.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.4.9- The student uses prior knowledge, content, and text type features to make, revise, and confirm predictions.

1.4.10- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, evaluative, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading the text.

1.4.17- The student analyzes and evaluates how an author's style and use of literary devices work together to achieve his or her purpose for writing text.

Literature:

2.1.2- The student analyzes the historical, social, and cultural contextual aspects of the setting and its influence on characters and events in the story.

2.1.5- The student identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the use of literary devices in a text.

Writing:

3.5.14- The student uses the text as an example of appropriate voice to the audience, occasion, and purpose.

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

This account of slavery includes graphic descriptions of the cruel treatment Frederick Douglass endured at the hands of slave owners. Douglass also attacks the hypocrisy of the Christian slave owner. These instances are limited, however, and are shadowed by Douglass's positive, hopeful ending.

AP Connections

This novel has been referenced on the AP tests in the past.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:
To be completed during future curriculum development activities