

Twelve Years a Slave: Was the Case of Solomon Northup Exceptional?

Overall Assessment

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Class: _____

Answer the following questions:

1. What statement best describes the slave drivers' mindset?

- a. They were loyal to the master's interest
- b. They were loyal to their fellow slaves' interest
- c. They had their own interest that was different from the Master's or the other slaves
- d. They were indifferent to the master's and slaves' interests
- e. None of the above

2. Which of these social, legal and economic conditions created an environment conducive to free black kidnapping in the 19th century?

- a. Fugitive Slave Laws
- b. Southern laws which prevented blacks from testifying against whites in court
- c. Attitudes among whites that slavery was the natural condition for all blacks
- d. The rising price of slaves due to the booming cotton economy
- e. All of the above

3. By faking whippings of other slaves, what did Northup hope to accomplish?

- a. To maintain the trust and confidence of Epps by giving the "appearance" he's doing the slave driver job by the book
- b. He demonstrates the slaves he is not a traitor to them but aligned with their interests
- c. By having the other slaves "on his side", he is able to get them to work with and for him rather than against him
- d. None of the above
- e. All of the above

4. Northup stated in his narrative: "I dared not show any lenity ... by refusing to perform the office." Under what condition did he dare not show lenience in whipping other slaves?

- a. When it was harvest time
- b. When the slave master was close enough to see the slave being whipped
- c. When Northup was physically ill and wanted to appear in control
When the slaves were mocking the Master
- d. All of the above

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5. Why were free black children especially targeted by kidnapers? List all that apply.
- They were easier to deceive and trick than adults
 - They were more easily physically dominated than adults
 - Many free black children were taken away from their parents' protection and supervision
 - None of the above
 - All of the above
6. What is Northup referring to in this quote: *"I learned to handle the whip wit marvelous dexterity and precision, throwing the lash within a hair's breadth of the back, the ear, the nose, without, however, touching either of them."*
- How he liked to present entertainments at the Big House in which he "showed off" his dexterity with a whip
 - How he liked to torture other slaves by terrorizing them by coming very close when whipping them, but not actually touching them
 - How he became so skilled at whipping that he could simulate or "fake" the act so it looked at a distance like he was actually whipping the slave
 - None of the above
 - All of the above
7. Which of the following experiences was extremely rare for an African Americans to experience in the Antebellum period?
- Being whipped by a slave driver
 - Publishing a "slave narrative" about one's life in slavery and freedom
 - Being kidnapped and sold into slavery
 - None of the above
 - All of the above
8. Slave narratives had a propagandistic purpose: to convert the hearts and minds of readers to the anti-slavery cause. They have been proven to be:
- Exaggerations
 - Truthful
 - Unreliable
 - Exceptional
 - None of the above
9. Was Solomon Northup exceptional?
- No, because free black kidnapping was commonplace
 - No, because he conducted himself in the plantation role of slave driver similarly to others in that role
 - Yes, he was exceptional because most slaves were not able to craft a path out of slavery
 - Yes, he was exceptional because he created a slave narrative about his experiences and that was rare
 - All of the above