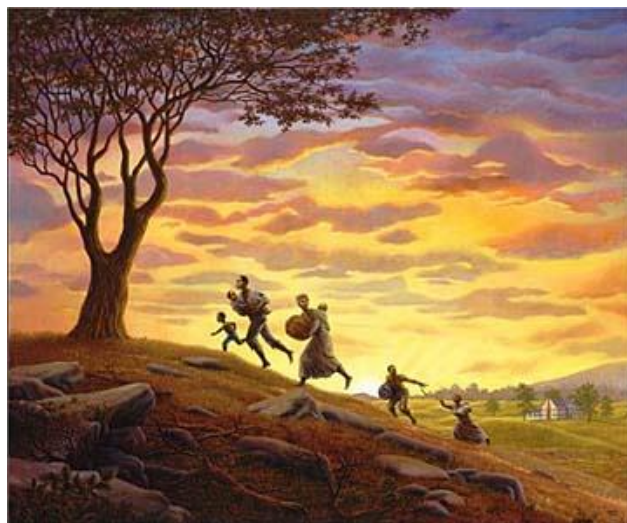


Module Four: The Road to Freedom

Section One: The Underground Railroad





Introduction to the Reading:

1. What was the Underground Railroad?
2. Who traveled on the Underground Railroad?
3. Where did people travel from and to on the Underground Railroad?
4. When did people travel on the Underground Railroad? Why did it end?
5. Why do you think it was called the "Underground Railroad"?



There is much more to a photo than the subject in the center. People, places, things and conditions in a photograph may offer a more complete view than what we see in the expression of the subject. Each image tells a different story or may invoke a different emotion. Use the photo analysis sheet on the following page to take a closer look at the image above and form opinions about the "big picture".

Photo Analysis Sheet

YOU SEE PHOTO ANALYSIS	What I See (observe)
	Describe exactly what you see in the photo. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · What people and objects are shown? How are they arranged? · What is the physical setting? · What other details can you see?
THE MORE YOU LOOK, THE MORE	What I Infer (deduction)
	Summarize what you already know about the situation and time period shown and the people and objects that appear.
	Interpretation
	Say what you conclude from what you see. What is going on in the picture? Who are the people and what are they doing? What might be the function of the objects? What can we conclude about the time period?
	What I Need to Investigate
	What are three questions you have about the photo?
	1. 2. 3.
	Where can you go to do further research and answer your questions?

(W.1.8-W3.8)

A. Reading Passage One

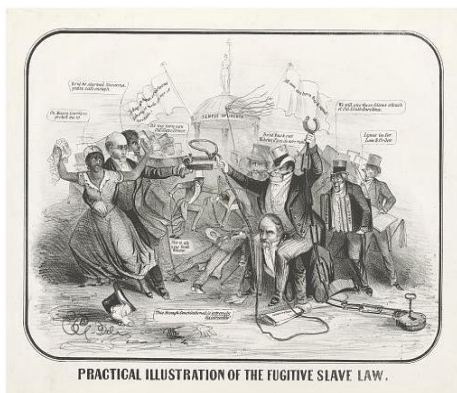
(Source: Entire passage taken from: http://eiu.edu/eiutps/underground_railroad_ps.php: Accessed August 23, 2013)

The Underground Railroad was a secret system developed to aid fugitive slaves on their escape to freedom. Involvement with the Underground Railroad was not only dangerous, but it was also illegal. So, to help protect themselves and their mission secret codes were created. The term Underground Railroad referred to the entire system, which consisted of many routes called lines. The free individuals who helped runaway slaves travel toward freedom were called conductors, and the fugitive slaves were referred to as cargo. The safe houses used as hiding places along the lines of the Underground Railroad were called stations. A lit lantern hung outside would identify these stations.



A Dangerous Path to Freedom

Traveling along the Underground Railroad was a long and perilous journey for fugitive slaves to reach their freedom. Runaway slaves had to travel great distances, many times on foot, in a short amount of time. They did this with little or no food and no protection from the slave catchers chasing them. Slave owners were not the only pursuers of fugitive slaves. In order to entice others to assist in the capture of these slaves, their owners would post reward posters offering payment for the capture of their property. If they were caught, any number of terrible things could happen to them. Many captured fugitive slaves were flogged, branded, jailed, sold back into slavery, or even killed.



Not only did fugitive slaves have the fear of starvation and capture, but there were also threats presented by their surroundings. While traveling for long periods of time in the wilderness, they would have to fend off animals wanting to kill and eat them, cross treacherous terrain, and survive severe temperatures. For the slaves traveling north on the Underground Railroad, they were still in danger once they entered northern states. The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 allowed and encouraged the capture of fugitive slaves due to the fact that they were seen as stolen property, rather than abused human beings.



The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 also outlawed the abetting of fugitive slaves. Their safety and freedom would not be reached until they entered into Canada. Not all slaves traveled north. There were also Underground Railroad lines that lead south en route for Mexico and the Caribbean.

One of the many fugitive slaves impacted by the Fugitive Slave Law was Anthony Burns. He was taken from his northern residence, arrested, and tried under this law in Boston, Massachusetts. His arrest spurred black and white abolitionists and citizens of Boston to riot and protest. After the trial, Burns was taken back to cruelty of the south which he thought he had escaped from. While he was enduring his return to slavery, abolitionists were working to raise funds and within a year of his trial they had enough money to buy his freedom. *Library of Congress American Memory and America's Library. Accessed August 23, 2012*

Frederick Douglass was another fugitive slave who escaped slavery. He escaped not on the Underground Railroad, but on a real train. He disguised himself as a sailor, but this was not enough. He needed to show proof that he was free, and since he was a runaway slave who did not have any “free papers” he borrowed a seaman’s protection certificate that stated a sailor was a citizen of the U.S. Luckily, the train conductor did not look closely at the papers, and Douglass gained his passage to freedom.

Unfortunately, not all runaway slaves made it to freedom. But, many of those who did manage to escape went on to tell their stories of flight from slavery and to help other slaves not yet free. Harriet Tubman, Henry Bibb, Anthony Burns, Addison White, Josiah Henson and John Parker all escaped slavery via the Underground Railroad.

Henry “Box” Brown, another fugitive slave, escaped in a rather different way. He shipped himself in a three foot long by two and a half foot deep by two foot wide box, from Richmond, Virginia to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. When he was removed from the box, he came out singing.



Conductors & Abolitionists

Underground Railroad conductors were free individuals who helped fugitive slaves traveling along the Underground Railroad. Conductors helped runaway slaves by providing them with safe passage to and from stations. They did this under the cover of darkness with slave catchers hot on their heels. Many times these stations would be located within their own homes and businesses. The act of harboring fugitive slaves put these conductors in grave danger; yet, they persisted because they believed in a cause greater than themselves, which was the freeing of thousands of enslaved human beings.



These conductors were comprised of a diverse group of people. They included people of different races, occupations and income levels. There were also former slaves who had escaped using the Underground Railroad and voluntarily returned to the lands of slavery, as conductors, to help free those still enslaved. Slaves were understood to be property; therefore, the freeing of slaves was viewed as stealing slave owners' personal property. If a conductor was caught helping free slaves they would be fined, imprisoned, branded, or even hanged. Jonathan Walker was a sea captain caught off the shore of Florida trying to transport fugitive slaves to freedom in the Bahamas. He was arrested, imprisoned and branded with the letter "S.S." which stood for slave stealer. The abolitionist poet John Whittier paid tribute to Walker's courageous acts in one of his poems saying: "Then lift that manly right hand, bold ploughman of the wave! Its branded palm shall prophesy, 'Salvation to the Slave!'"



Harriet Tubman, perhaps the most well-known conductor of the Underground Railroad, helped hundreds of runaway slaves escape to freedom. She never lost one of them along the way. As a fugitive slave herself, she was helped along the Underground Railroad by another famous conductor... William Still. He went on to write *The Underground Railroad: A Record of Facts, Authentic Narratives, Letters...*, a book which contains descriptions of fugitive slaves' escape to freedom by way of the Underground Railroad. John Parker is yet another former slave who escaped and ventured back into slave states to help free others. He conducted one of the busiest sections of the Underground Railroad, transporting fugitive slaves across the Ohio River. His neighbor and fellow conductor, Reverend John Rankin, worked with him on the Underground

Railroad. Both of their homes served as Underground Railroad stations.

Conductors of the Underground Railroad undoubtedly opposed slavery, and they were not alone. Abolitionists took action against slavery as well. The abolition movement began when individuals such as William Lloyd Garrison and Arthur and Lewis Tappan formed the American Anti-Slavery Society. The organization created the Declaration of Anti-Slavery in which they gave reasons for the construction of the society and its goals. The society distributed an annual almanac that included poems, drawings, essays and other abolitionist material.

Frederick Douglass was an escaped slave who became a famous abolitionist. He published a newspaper called the *North Star* in which he voiced his goals for the abolishment of slavery. He also published another abolitionist paper called the *Frederick Douglass Paper*, as well as giving public speeches on issues of concern to abolitionists.

Susan B. Anthony was another well known abolitionist who spoke and wrote for the efforts to abolish slavery. She urged her audience to "make the slave's case our own."

Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, provided the world with a vivid image of



the hardships faced by slaves. Much of her book was based on the experiences of fugitive slave Josiah Henson.

Efforts of Abolitionists Telling Their Story: Fugitive Slave Narratives

Henry Bibb was born into slavery, in Kentucky during the year of 1815. He made many failed attempts to escape slavery; yet, he still had the courage and perseverance to continue in his fight for freedom after every capture and punishment. His perseverance paid off when he made a successful and much anticipated escape to the northern states and then on to Canada with the help of the Underground Railroad. The following is an excerpt from his narrative in which he discussed one of his many escapes and the challenges he had to overcome.

“In the fall or winter of 1837 I formed a resolution that I would escape, if possible, to Canada, for my Liberty. I commenced from that hour making preparations for the dangerous experiment of breaching the chains that bound me as a slave. My preparation for this voyage consisted in the accumulation of a little money, perhaps not exceeding two dollars and fifty cents, and a suit which I had never been seen or known to wear before; this last was to avoid detection.

On the twenty-fifth of December, 1837, my long anticipated time had arrived when I was to put into operation my former resolution, which was to bolt for Liberty or consent to die a Slave. I acted upon the former, although I confess it to be one of the most self-defying acts of my whole life, to take leave of an affectionate wife, who stood before me on my departure, with dear little Frances in her arms, and with tears of sorrow in her eyes as she bid me a long farewell. It required all the moral courage that I was master of to suppress my feelings while taking leave of my little family.

Had Matilda known my intention at the time, it would not have been possible for me to have got away, and I might have this day been a slave. Notwithstanding every inducement was held out to me to run away if I would be free, and the voice of liberty was thundering in my very soul, ‘Be free, oh, man! be free,’ I was struggling against a thousand obstacles which had clustered around my mind to bind my wounded spirit still in the dark prison of mental degradation. My strong attachments to friends and relatives, with all the love of home and birth-place which is so natural among the human family, twined about my heart and were hard to break away from. And withal, the fear of being killed, or captured and taken to the extreme South, to linger out my days in hopeless bondage on some cotton or sugar plantation, all combined to deter me. But I had count the cost, and was fully prepared to make the sacrifice. The time for fulfilling my pledge was then at hand. I must forsake friends and neighbors, wife and child, or consent to live and die a slave.”





“These kind friends gave me something to eat, and started me on my way to Canada, with a recommendation of a friend on my way. This was the commencement of what was called the under ground rail road to Canada. I walked with bold courage, trusting in the arm of Omnipotence; guided by the unchangeable North Star by night, and inspired by an elevated thought that I was fleeing from a land of slavery and oppression, bidding farewell to handcuffs, whips, thumb-screws and chains.

I travelled on until I had arrived at the place where I was directed to call on an Abolitionist, but I made no stop: so great were my fears of being pursued by the pro-slavery hunting dogs of the South. I prosecuted my journey vigorously for nearly forty-eight hours without food or rest, struggling against external difficulties such as no one can imagine who has never experienced the same: not knowing what moment I might be captured while travelling among strangers, through cold and fear, breasting the north winds, being thinly clad, pelted by the snow storms through the dark hours of the night, and not a house in which I could enter to shelter me from the storm.”

This is only one of the many narratives written by fugitive slaves. Another former slave who was well known for her efforts to end slavery was Sojourner Truth. She too along with Josiah Henson, J.D. Green and many others wrote narratives that shared their experiences. Their stories of strength and freedom provide much insight to the time in which they lived. Perhaps, so many fugitive slaves chose to write down their experiences to help others understand their trials and tribulations; or maybe they did this to help individuals learn from the mistakes of the past, in hopes of creating a better future.



Use the information in the reading passage above to answer the following questions.

1. A. In your own words, explain what a ‘conductor’ is, as it is used in the reading passage. (RI.1.4, RI.3.4)

- B. Define the term ‘abolitionist’. (RI.1.4,RI.3.4)

- C. These two words are used multiple times throughout the reading passage. How does the use of these words influence the meaning and tone used in the text? (RI/RL.6.4-RI/RL9-10.4)

2. A. Complete the chart below using the information provided in the reading.
(W.3.8)

Dangers of the Underground Railroad	Names of Conductors along the Underground Railroad	Traits of Conductors of the Underground Railroad

3. In your own words, summarize the dangers of the Underground Railroad?
(W.5.8)
4. According to the text, what law was responsible for creating the need for the Underground Railroad? (RI.3.3)

- a. Scan the initial summary of the Fugitive Slave Law on page 18. How many Underground Railway stations were supposedly in operation as a result of this controversial law? (RI/RL.2.1)

 - b. Explain the impact this law had on escaped slaves? (RI.4.3)
5. A. What is the main idea of the reading on pages 4-8? (RI.1.2) Identify key details from the text that support the main idea. (RI.3.2-RI.4.2)
- B. On a separate piece of paper write an objective summary of the text. Cite specific details in paraphrase form to help support your summary. (RI/RL.9-10.2, W.3.4-W/WHST.11-12.4)
6. A. Look at the map on page four. Which direction(s) did the Underground Railroad typically take escaped slaves? (RI.3.7)
- B. What facts can you cite from this reading, or any other primary source document to explain why the Underground Railroad went in these directions. (RI.4.7-RI.6.7)

7. What words/phrases from Henry Bibb's narrative describe the hardships and fears of escaping slavery through the Underground Railroad. (RI.3.4-RI/RL.6.4)

Hardships	Fears
.	

8. The text recounts two other ways that escaped slaves made it to freedom. Describe these methods. (RI/RL.2.1-RI/RL.4.1)

9. A. The picture below is a replica of the box that Henry Brown escaped in and of the song he was singing when he was found. What inferences can you make from the picture/text about Henry Brown's personality? (RI/RL.2.1-RI/RL.4.1)



Engraving of the Box in which HENRY BOX BROWN escaped from slavery in Richmond, Va.

S O N G,

Sung by Mr. Brown on being removed from the box.

I waited patiently for the Lord ;—
 And he, in kindness to me, heard my calling—
 And he hath put a new song into my mouth—
 Even thanksgiving—even thanksgiving—
 Unto our God !

Blessed—blessed is the man
 That has set his hope, his hope in the Lord !
 O Lord ! my God ! great, great is the wondrous work
 Which thou hast done !

If I should declare them—and speak of them—
 They would be more than I am able to express.
 I have not kept back thy love, and kindness, and truth,
 From the great congregation !

Withdraw not thou thy mercies from me,
 Let thy love, and kindness, and thy truth, alway preserve me—
 Let all those that seek thee be joyful and glad !
 Be joyful and glad !

And let such as love thy salvation—
 Say always—say always—
 The Lord be praised !
 The Lord be praised !

Latins Steam Press, 1 1-2 Water Street, Boston.



I. Escaping Slavery



Go to the website

http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/underground_railroad/

Read/watch/listen to the slideshows entitled 'The Underground Railroad: Escape from Slavery.' There are four components to this slideshow:

- 1) On the Plantation
- 2) Escape!
- 3) Reaching Safety
- 4) Reaching Freedom



Worksheet

As you go through these slideshows, complete the worksheet on the following page. (multiple standards apply)

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

escape from slavery

WRITE ABOUT IT ON THE PLANTATION: LIFE AS SLAVE

Have you explored all the resources in “On the Plantation: Life as a Slave”? To start, listen to the story of the runaway slave, then click around the scene to learn more about life on a Southern plantation. In the audio slideshow, you’ll discover the history and hardships of slavery in America. Then read “Growing Up in Slavery” to meet Fannie Moore, who was born an enslaved African American in South Carolina. After you’ve explored these resources, answer these questions.

1. What did it mean to be a slave? What were some of the basic rights that slaves did not have?

2. Why did people own slaves in the United States in the 1800s?

3. When did slavery begin in the United States? Where did the first slaves come from?

4. Describe the life of a slave on a Southern plantation. Where did slaves live? What kinds of work did they do? How were they punished?

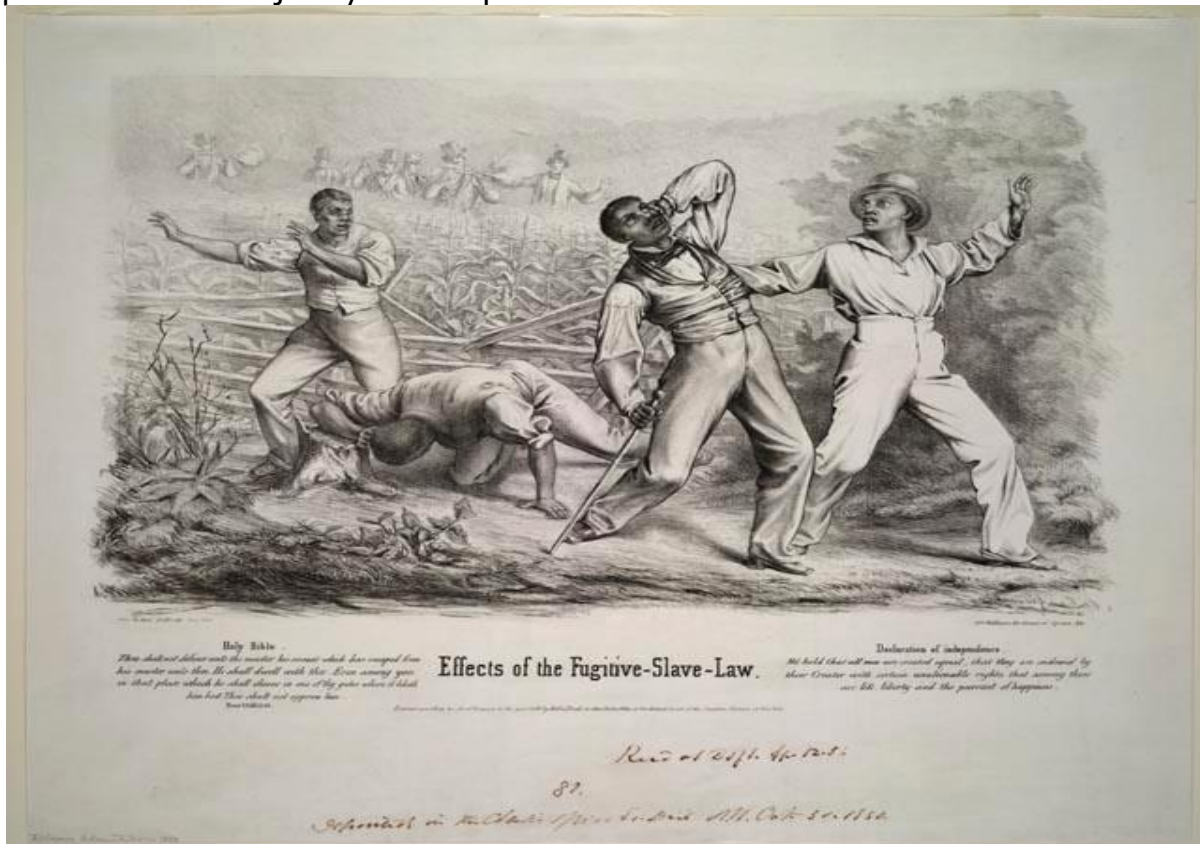
5. What do you think were some of the hardest things about being a slave?

 SCHOLASTIC

1. Once you are done, complete the online activity ‘[Tell the Story](#)’ and print out your paper. (W.1.3, W.2.3, W.3..2,)

Section Two: Fugitive Slave Act of 1850

This controversial law allowed slave-hunters to seize alleged fugitive slaves without due process of law and prohibited anyone from aiding escaped fugitives or obstructing their recovery. Because it was often presumed that a black person was a slave, the law threatened the safety of all blacks, slave and free, and forced many Northerners to become more defiant in their support of fugitives. S. M. Africanus presents objections in prose and verse to justify noncompliance with this law.



Summary of the Picture: An impassioned condemnation of the Fugitive Slave Act passed by Congress in September 1850, which increased federal and free-state responsibility for the recovery of fugitive slaves. The law provided for the appointment of federal commissioners empowered to issue warrants for the arrest of alleged fugitive slaves and to enlist the aid of posses and even civilian bystanders in their apprehension. The print shows a group of four black men--possibly freedmen--ambushed by a posse of six armed whites in a cornfield. One of the white men fires on them, while two of his companions reload their muskets. Two of the blacks have evidently been hit; one has fallen to the ground while the second staggers, clutching the back of his bleeding head. The two others react with horror.

Below the picture are two texts, one from Deuteronomy:

"Thou shalt not deliver unto the master his servant which has escaped from his master unto thee. He shall dwell with thee. Even among you in that place which he shall choose in one of thy gates where it liketh him best. Thou shalt not oppress him."

The second text is from the Declaration of Independence:

"We hold that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The print is unusually well drawn and composed for a political print of the period. The handling of both the lithographic technique and the figures betray particular skill.

Questions:



1. A. What do the two texts under the picture refer to? (RI/RL.1.1)

- B. What inferences can you make from these texts and from the portrayal of the men in the picture about the implications the Fugitive Slave Law had on the African American population at the time? (RI/RL4.1-RI/RL7.1)

Introduction to Reading Passage Two:

Skim the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 found on the following pages. Pay particular attention to the 'Synopsis' given at the end of the Law.

After skimming the passage, answer the questions below.

1. How many sections are there to this law? (RI.1.5)
2. Each section begins with the same phrase. What does this phrase mean? (RI.3.4)
3. When did the document become law? (RI.1.5)

Read the Fugitive Slave Law and complete the worksheet on page 24 as you read through the text.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

A bill to amend the act entitled "An act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the persons who have been, or may hereafter be, appointed commissioners, in virtue of any act of Congress, by the circuit courts of the United States, and who, in consequence of such appointment, are authorized to exercise the powers that any justice of the peace or other magistrate of any of the United States may exercise in respect to offenders for any crime or offense against the United States, by arresting, imprisoning, or bailing the same under and by virtue of the thirty-third section of the act of the twenty-fourth of September, aforesaid, and all other officers, are hereby authorized and required to exercise and discharge all the powers and duties conferred by this act.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the superior court of each organized Territory of the United States shall have the same power to appoint commissioners to take acknowledgments of bail and affidavit, and to take depositions of witnesses in civil causes, which is now possessed by the circuit courts of the United States; and all commissioners who shall hereafter be appointed for such purposes by the superior court of any organized Territory of the United States shall possess all the powers and exercise all the duties conferred by law upon the commissioners appointed by the circuit courts of the United States for similar purposes, and shall moreover exercise and discharge all the powers and duties conferred by this act.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the circuit courts of the United States, and the superior courts of each organized Territory of the United States, shall from time to time enlarge the number of commissioners, with a view to afford reasonable facilities to reclaim fugitives from labor, and to the prompt discharge of the duties imposed by this act.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissioners above named shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the judges of the circuit and district courts of the United States, in their respective circuits and districts within the several States, and the judges of the superior courts of the Territories, severally and collectively, in term time and vacation; and shall grant certificates to such claimants, upon satisfactory proof being made, with authority to take and remove such fugitives from service or labor, under the restrictions herein contained, to the State or Territory from which such persons may have escaped or fled.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of all marshals and deputy marshals to obey and execute all warrants and precepts issued under the provisions of this act, when to them directed, and should any marshal or deputy marshal refuse to receive such warrant or other process, when tendered, or to use all proper means diligently to execute the same, he shall, on conviction thereof, be fined in the sum of one thousand dollars to the use of such claimant, on the motion of such claimant, by the circuit or district court for the district of such marshal; and after arrest of such fugitive by such marshal or his deputy, or whilst at any time in his custody, under the provisions of this act, should such fugitive escape, whether with or without the assent of such marshal or his deputy, such marshal shall be liable, on his official bond, to be prosecuted, for the benefit of such claimant, for the full value of the service or labor of said fugitive in the State, Territory or district whence he escaped; and the better to enable the said commissioners, when

thus appointed, to execute their duties faithfully and efficiently, in conformity with the requirements of the constitution of the United States and of this act, they are hereby authorized and empowered, within their counties respectively, to appoint in writing under their hands, any one or more suitable persons, from time to time, to execute all such warrants and other process as may be issued by them in the lawful performance of their respective duties; with an authority to such commissioners, or the persons to be appointed by them, to execute process as aforesaid, to summon and call to their aid the bystanders, or posse comitatus of the proper county, when necessary to insure a faithful observance of the clause of the constitution referred to, in conformity with the provisions of this act; and all good citizens are hereby commanded to aid and assist in the prompt and efficient execution of this law, whenever their services may be required, as aforesaid, for that purpose; and said warrants shall run and be executed by said officers anywhere in the State within which they are issued.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That when a person held to service or labor in any State or Territory of the United States has heretofore or shall hereafter escape into another State or Territory of the United States, the person or persons to whom such service or labor may be due, or his, her or their agent or attorney, duly authorized, by power of attorney, in writing, acknowledged and certified under the seal of some legal office or court of the State or Territory in which the same may be executed, may pursue and reclaim such fugitive person, either by procuring a warrant from some one of the courts, judges, or commissioners aforesaid, of the proper circuit, district or county, for the apprehension of such fugitive from service or labor, or by seizing and arresting such fugitive, where the same can be done without process, and by taking or causing such person to be taken, forthwith before such court, judge or commissioner, whose duty it shall be to hear and determine the case of such claimant in a summary manner; and upon satisfactory proof being made, by deposition or affidavit, in writing, to be taken and certified by such court, judge, or commissioner, or by other satisfactory testimony, duly taken and certified by some court, magistrate, justice of the peace, or other legal officer authorized to administer an oath and take depositions under the laws of the State or Territory from which such person owing service or labor may have escaped, with a certificate of such magistracy or other authority, as aforesaid, with the seal of the proper court or officer thereto attached, which seal shall be sufficient to establish the competency of the proof, and with proof, also by affidavit, of the identity of the person whose service or labor is claimed to be due as aforesaid, that the person so arrested does in fact owe service or labor to the person or persons claiming him or her, in the State or Territory from which such fugitive may have escaped as aforesaid, and that said person escaped, to make out and deliver to such claimant, his or her agent or attorney, a certificate setting forth the substantial facts as to the service or labor due from such fugitive to the claimant, and of his or her escape from the State or Territory in which such service or labor was due to the State or Territory in which he or she was arrested, with authority to such claimant, or his or her agent or attorney, to use such reasonable force and restraint as may be necessary under the circumstances of the case, to take and remove such fugitive person back to the State or Territory from whence he or she may have escaped as aforesaid. In no trial or hearing under this act shall the testimony of such alleged fugitive be admitted in evidence; and the certificates in this and the first section

mentioned shall be conclusive of the right of the person or persons in whose favor granted to remove such fugitive to the State or Territory from which he escaped, and shall prevent all molestation of said person or persons by any process issued by any court, judge, magistrate, or other person whatsoever.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That any person who shall knowingly and willfully obstruct, hinder, or prevent such claimant, his agent or attorney, or any person or persons lawfully assisting him, her, or them, from arresting such a fugitive from service or labor, either with or without process as aforesaid; or shall resist, attempt to rescue, such fugitive from service or labor, or from the custody of such claimant, his or her agent or attorney, or of other persons lawfully assisting as aforesaid, when so arrested, pursuant to the authority herein given and declared; or shall aid, abet, or assist such person, so owing service or labor as aforesaid, shall, for either of said offenses, be subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding six months, by indictment and conviction before the District Court of the United States for the district in which such offense may have been committed, or before the proper court of criminal jurisdiction, if committed within any one of the organized Territories of the United States; and shall moreover forfeit and pay, by way of civil damages to the party injured by such illegal conduct, the sum of one thousand dollars for each fugitive so lost as aforesaid, to be recovered by action of debt in any of the District or Territorial Courts aforesaid, in which venue jurisdiction the said offense may have been committed.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the marshals, their deputies, and the clerks of the said district and territorial courts, shall be paid for their services the like fees as may be allowed to them for similar services in other cases; and when such services are rendered exclusively in the arrest, custody, and delivery of the fugitive to the claimant, his or her agent or attorney, or where such supposed fugitive may be discharged out of the custody from the want of sufficient proof as aforesaid, then such fees are to be paid in the whole by such complainant, his agent or attorney; and in all cases where the proceedings are before a commissioner, he shall be entitled to a fee of ten dollars in full for his services in each case, upon the delivery of the said certificate to the claimant, his or her agent or attorney; or a fee of five dollars in cases where proof shall not, in the opinion of such commissioner, warrant such certificate and delivery, inclusive of all services incident to such arrest and examination, to be paid, in either case, by the claimant, his or her agent or attorney. The person or persons authorized to execute the process to be issued by such commissioners for the arrest and detention of fugitives from service or labor as aforesaid shall also be entitled to a fee of five dollars each for each person he or they may arrest and take before any such commissioner as aforesaid, at the instance and request of such claimant, with such other fees as may be deemed reasonable by such commissioner for such other additional services as may be necessarily performed by him or them: such as attending to the examination, keeping the fugitive in custody, and providing him with food and lodging during his detention, and also the final determination of such commissioner; and in general for perform-

ing such other duties as may be required by such claimant, his or her attorney or agent, or commissioner in the premises; such fees to be made up in conformity with the fees usually charged by the officers of the courts of justice within the proper district or county, as near as may be practicable, and paid by such claimants, their agents or attorneys, whether such supposed fugitive from service or labor be ordered to be delivered to such claimants by the final determination of such commissioners or not.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That upon affidavit made by the claimant of such fugitive, his agent or attorney, after such certificate has been issued, that he has reason to apprehend that such fugitive will be rescued by force from his or their possession before he can be taken beyond the limits of the State in which the arrest is made, it shall be the duty of the officer making the arrest to retain such fugitive in his custody, and to remove him to the State whence he fled, and there to deliver him to said claimant, his agent or attorney. And to this end the officer aforesaid is hereby authorized and required to employ so many persons as he may deem necessary, to overcome such force, and to retain them in his service so long as circumstances may require; the said officer and his assistants, while so employed, to receive the same compensation, and to be allowed the same expenses as are now allowed by law for the transportation of criminals, to be certified by the judge of the district within which the arrest is made, and paid out of the treasury of the United States.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That when any person held to service or labor in any State or Territory, or in the District of Columbia, shall escape therefrom, from the party to whom such service or labor shall be due, his, her, or their agent or attorney, may apply to any court of record therein, or judge thereof in vacation, and make such satisfactory proof to such court, judge, or judge in vacation, of the escape aforesaid, and that the person escaping owed service or labor to such party.—Whereupon the court shall cause a record to be made of the matters so proved, and also a general description of the person so escaping, with such other particulars as may be; and a transcript of such record authenticated by the attestation of the clerk, and of the seal of the said court, being produced in any other State, Territory, or District in which the person so escaping may be found, and being exhibited to any judge, commissioner, or other officer, authorized by the law of the United States to cause persons escaping from service or labor to be delivered up, shall be held and taken to be full and conclusive evidence of the fact of escape, and that the service or labor of the person escaping is due to the party in such record mentioned. And upon the production by the said party of other and further evidence, if necessary, either oral or by affidavit, in addition to what is contained in the said record of the identity of the person escaping, he or she shall be delivered up to the claimant. And the said court, commissioner, judge or other person authorized by this act to grant certificates to claimants of fugitives, shall, upon the production of the record and other evidences aforesaid, grant to such claimant a certificate of his right to take any such person identified and proved to be owing service or labor as aforesaid, which certificate shall authorize such claimant to seize or arrest and transport such person to the State or Territory from which he escaped: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be construed as requiring the production of a transcript of such record as evidence as aforesaid; but in its absence, the claim shall be heard and determined upon other satisfactory proofs competent in law.

SYNOPSIS OF THE LAW.

1. It clothes any ruffian who may be commissioned to act in this new and infamous office of *Slave-Catcher*, with magisterial and judicial authority. 2. It commands and requires good citizens to aid in this heartless and brutal business, imposing the work of bloodhounds upon them. 3. It authorizes such kidnappers and rascals as may choose to do so, to arrest or seize persons without "due process of law." 4. It jeopardizes the liberty of every colored person, by requiring merely a "general description," and by casting out the evidence of the person arrested. 5. It seeks to annul the writ of Habeas Corpus, which tends to secure justice and liberty by delivering a person from false imprisonment, or by removing a case from one court to another. 6. It imposes excessive fines. 7. It denies the citizen a Jury Trial, where his liberty, and perhaps his life, is at stake.

OBJECTIONS.—It violates the spirit and letter of the Constitution, in the form and manner of seizures or arrests; in its requirements upon good citizens, in imposing excessive fines, in crushing the Habeas Corpus, and in depriving the person arrested of a trial by a jury of his peers. 2. It contravenes the Law of Nature, which is the foundation of all human laws, and which, being dictated by the Almighty himself, is of course superior in obligation to any other. Therefore this enactment of Congress is both unjust and unreasonable, consequently becomes of no binding force—is null and void.

Let it be placed among the abominations!

Shame on the costly mockery of piling stone on stones
To those who won our liberties, the Heroes dead and gone,
While we look coldly on and see law-abiding ruffians they
The men who vain would win their own, the Heroes of to-day!

Are we pledged to cryan silence? O fling it to the wind,
The parchment writ that bars us from the least of human kind—
And let the burning dross of words subvert within the breast,
While Fly's burning dross of words subverts within the breast.

Though we break our fathers' promise, we have nobler duties first,
The traitor to humanity is the traitor most accursed—
Man is more than Constitution, better not the sod,
Than be true to Church and State, while we're doubly false to God.

S. M. AFRICANUS, Hartford, Ct.

B. Reading Passage Two:**Transcript of the Fugitive Slave Law**

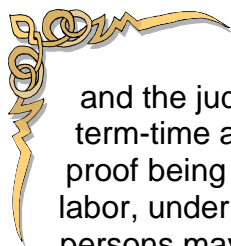
The Fugitive Slave Act was part of the group of laws referred to as the "Compromise of 1850." In this compromise, the antislavery advocates gained the admission of California as a free state, and the prohibition of slave-trading in the District of Columbia. The slavery party received concessions with regard to slaveholding in Texas and the passage of this law. Passage of this law was so hated by abolitionists, however, that its existence played a role in the end of slavery a little more than a dozen years later. This law also spurred the continued operation of the fabled Underground Railroad, a network of over 3,000 homes and other "stations" that helped escaping slaves travel from the southern slave-holding states to the northern states and Canada.

BE IT enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the persons who have been, or may hereafter be, appointed commissioners, in virtue of any act of Congress, by the Circuit Courts of the United States, and Who, in consequence of such appointment, are authorized to exercise the powers that any justice of the peace, or other magistrate of any of the United States, may exercise in respect to offenders for any crime or offense against the United States, by arresting, imprisoning, or bailing the same under and by the virtue of the thirty-third section of the act of the twenty-fourth of September seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, entitled "An Act to establish the judicial courts of the United States" shall be, and are hereby, authorized and required to exercise and discharge all the powers and duties conferred by this act.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Superior Court of each organized Territory of the United States shall have the same power to appoint commissioners to take acknowledgments of bail and affidavits, and to take depositions of witnesses in civil causes, which is now possessed by the Circuit Court of the United States; and all commissioners who shall hereafter be appointed for such purposes by the Superior Court of any organized Territory of the United States, shall possess all the powers, and exercise all the duties, conferred by law upon the commissioners appointed by the Circuit Courts of the United States for similar purposes, and shall moreover exercise and discharge all the powers and duties conferred by this act.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the Circuit Courts of the United States shall from time to time enlarge the number of the commissioners, with a view to afford reasonable facilities to reclaim fugitives from labor, and to the prompt discharge of the duties imposed by this act.

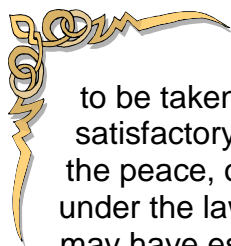
SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the commissioners above named shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the judges of the Circuit and District Courts of the United



States, in their respective circuits and districts within the several States, and the judges of the Superior Courts of the Territories, severally and collectively, in term-time and vacation; shall grant certificates to such claimants, upon satisfactory proof being made, with authority to take and remove such fugitives from service or labor, under the restrictions herein contained, to the State or Territory from which such persons may have escaped or fled.

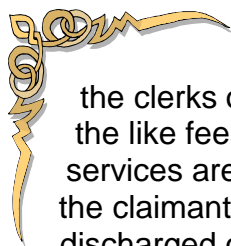
SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of all marshals and deputy marshals to obey and execute all warrants and precepts issued under the provisions of this act, when to them directed; and should any marshal or deputy marshal refuse to receive such warrant, or other process, when tendered, or to use all proper means diligently to execute the same, he shall, on conviction thereof, be fined in the sum of one thousand dollars, to the use of such claimant, on the motion of such claimant, by the Circuit or District Court for the district of such marshal; and after arrest of such fugitive, by such marshal or his deputy, or whilst at any time in his custody under the provisions of this act, should such fugitive escape, whether with or without the assent of such marshal or his deputy, such marshal shall be liable, on his official bond, to be prosecuted for the benefit of such claimant, for the full value of the service or labor of said fugitive in the State, Territory, or District whence he escaped: and the better to enable the said commissioners, when thus appointed, to execute their duties faithfully and efficiently, in conformity with the requirements of the Constitution of the United States and of this act, they are hereby authorized and empowered, within their counties respectively, to appoint, in writing under their hands, any one or more suitable persons, from time to time, to execute all such warrants and other process as may be issued by them in the lawful performance of their respective duties; with authority to such commissioners, or the persons to be appointed by them, to execute process as aforesaid, to summon and call to their aid the bystanders, or posse comitatus of the proper county, when necessary to ensure a faithful observance of the clause of the Constitution referred to, in conformity with the provisions of this act; and all good citizens are hereby commanded to aid and assist in the prompt and efficient execution of this law, whenever their services may be required, as aforesaid, for that purpose; and said warrants shall run, and be executed by said officers, any where in the State within which they are issued.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That when a person held to service or labor in any State or Territory of the United States, has: heretofore or shall hereafter escape into another State or Territory of the United States, the person or persons to whom such service or labor may be due, or his, her, or their agent or attorney, duly authorized, by power of attorney, in writing, acknowledged and certified under the seal of some legal officer or court of the State or Territory in which the same may be executed, may pursue and reclaim such fugitive person, either by procuring a warrant from some one of the courts, judges, or commissioners aforesaid, of the proper circuit, district, or county, for the apprehension of such fugitive from service or labor, or by seizing and arresting such fugitive, where the same can be done without process, and by taking, or causing such person to be taken, forthwith before such court, judge, or commissioner, whose duty it shall be to hear and determine the case of such claimant in a summary manner; and



upon satisfactory proof being made, by deposition or affidavit, in writing, to be taken and certified by such court, judge, or commissioner, or by other satisfactory testimony, duly taken and certified by some court, magistrate, justice of the peace, or other legal officer authorized to administer an oath and take depositions under the laws of the State or Territory from which such person owing service or labor may have escaped, with a certificate of such magistracy or other authority, as aforesaid, with the seal of the proper court or officer thereto attached, which seal shall be sufficient to establish the competency of the proof, and with proof, also by affidavit, of the identity of the person whose service or labor is claimed to be due as aforesaid, that the person so arrested does in fact owe service or labor to the person or persons claiming him or her, in the State or Territory from which such fugitive may have escaped as aforesaid, and that said person escaped, to make out and deliver to such claimant, his or her agent or attorney, a certificate setting forth the substantial facts as to the service or labor due from such fugitive to the claimant, and of his or her escape from the State or Territory in which he or she was arrested, with authority to such claimant, or his or her agent or attorney, to use such reasonable force and restraint as may be necessary, under the circumstances of the case, to take and remove such fugitive person back to the State or Territory whence he or she may have escaped as aforesaid. In no trial or hearing under this act shall the testimony of such alleged fugitive be admitted in evidence; and the certificates in this and the first [fourth] section mentioned, shall be conclusive of the right of the person or persons in whose favor granted, to remove such fugitive to the State or Territory from which he escaped, and shall prevent all molestation of such person or persons by any process issued by any court, judge, magistrate, or other person whomsoever.

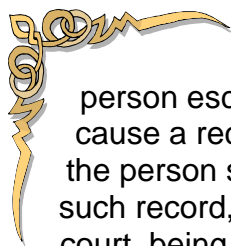
SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, That any person who shall knowingly and willingly obstruct, hinder, or prevent such claimant, his agent or attorney, or any person or persons lawfully assisting him, her, or them, from arresting such a fugitive from service or labor, either with or without process as aforesaid, or shall rescue, or attempt to rescue, such fugitive from service or labor, from the custody of such claimant, his or her agent or attorney, or other person or persons lawfully assisting as aforesaid, when so arrested, pursuant to the authority herein given and declared; or shall aid, abet, or assist such person so owing service or labor as aforesaid, directly or indirectly, to escape from such claimant, his agent or attorney, or other person or persons legally authorized as aforesaid; or shall harbor or conceal such fugitive, so as to prevent the discovery and arrest of such person, after notice or knowledge of the fact that such person was a fugitive from service or labor as aforesaid, shall, for either of said offences, be subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding six months, by indictment and conviction before the District Court of the United States for the district in which such offence may have been committed, or before the proper court of criminal jurisdiction, if committed within any one of the organized Territories of the United States; and shall moreover forfeit and pay, by way of civil damages to the party injured by such illegal conduct, the sum of one thousand dollars for each fugitive so lost as aforesaid, to be recovered by action of debt, in any of the District or Territorial Courts aforesaid, within whose jurisdiction the said offence may have been committed.



Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That the marshals, their deputies, and the clerks of the said District and Territorial Courts, shall be paid, for their services, the like fees as may be allowed for similar services in other cases; and where such services are rendered exclusively in the arrest, custody, and delivery of the fugitive to the claimant, his or her agent or attorney, or where such supposed fugitive may be discharged out of custody for the want of sufficient proof as aforesaid, then such fees are to be paid in whole by such claimant, his or her agent or attorney; and in all cases where the proceedings are before a commissioner, he shall be entitled to a fee of ten dollars in full for his services in each case, upon the delivery of the said certificate to the claimant, his agent or attorney; or a fee of five dollars in cases where the proof shall not, in the opinion of such commissioner, warrant such certificate and delivery, inclusive of all services incident to such arrest and examination, to be paid, in either case, by the claimant, his or her agent or attorney. The person or persons authorized to execute the process to be issued by such commissioner for the arrest and detention of fugitives from service or labor as aforesaid, shall also be entitled to a fee of five dollars each for each person he or they may arrest, and take before any commissioner as aforesaid, at the instance and request of such claimant, with such other fees as may be deemed reasonable by such commissioner for such other additional services as may be necessarily performed by him or them; such as attending at the examination, keeping the fugitive in custody, and providing him with food and lodging during his detention, and until the final determination of such commissioners; and, in general, for performing such other duties as may be required by such claimant, his or her attorney or agent, or commissioner in the premises, such fees to be made up in conformity with the fees usually charged by the officers of the courts of justice within the proper district or county, as near as may be practicable, and paid by such claimants, their agents or attorneys, whether such supposed fugitives from service or labor be ordered to be delivered to such claimant by the final determination of such commissioner or not.

SEC. 9. And be it further enacted, That, upon affidavit made by the claimant of such fugitive, his agent or attorney, after such certificate has been issued, that he has reason to apprehend that such fugitive will be rescued by force from his or their possession before he can be taken beyond the limits of the State in which the arrest is made, it shall be the duty of the officer making the arrest to retain such fugitive in his custody, and to remove him to the State whence he fled, and there to deliver him to said claimant, his agent, or attorney. And to this end, the officer aforesaid is hereby authorized and required to employ so many persons as he may deem necessary to overcome such force, and to retain them in his service so long as circumstances may require. The said officer and his assistants, while so employed, to receive the same compensation, and to be allowed the same expenses, as are now allowed by law for transportation of criminals, to be certified by the judge of the district within which the arrest is made, and paid out of the treasury of the United States.

SEC. 10. And be it further enacted, That when any person held to service or labor in any State or Territory, or in the District of Columbia, shall escape therefrom, the party to whom such service or labor shall be due, his, her, or their agent or attorney, may apply to any court of record therein, or judge thereof in vacation, and make satisfactory proof



to such court, or judge in vacation, of the escape aforesaid, and that the person escaping owed service or labor to such party. Whereupon the court shall cause a record to be made of the matters so proved, and also a general description of the person so escaping, with such convenient certainty as may be; and a transcript of such record, authenticated by the attestation of the clerk and of the seal of the said court, being produced in any other State, Territory, or district in which the person so escaping may be found, and being exhibited to any judge, commissioner, or other officer authorized by the law of the United States to cause persons escaping from service or labor to be delivered up, shall be held and taken to be full and conclusive evidence of the fact of escape, and that the service or labor of the person escaping is due to the party in such record mentioned. And upon the production by the said party of other and further evidence if necessary, either oral or by affidavit, in addition to what is contained in the said record of the identity of the person escaping, he or she shall be delivered up to the claimant. And the said court, commissioner, judge, or other person authorized by this act to grant certificates to claimants or fugitives, shall, upon the production of the record and other evidences aforesaid, grant to such claimant a certificate of his right to take any such person identified and proved to be owing service or labor as aforesaid, which certificate shall authorize such claimant to seize or arrest and transport such person to the State or Territory from which he escaped: Provided, That nothing herein contained shall be construed as requiring the production of a transcript of such record as evidence as aforesaid. But in its absence the claim shall be heard and determined upon other satisfactory proofs, competent in law.

Approved, September 18, 1850

SYNOPSIS OF THE LAW.

1. It clothes any ruffian who may be commissioned to act in this new and infamous office of *Slave-Catcher*, with magisterial and judicial authority. 2. It commands and requires good citizens to aid in this heartless and brutal business, imposing the work of bloodhounds upon them. 3. It authorizes such kidnappers and rascals as may choose to do so, to arrest or seize persons without "due process of law." 4. It jeopardizes the liberty of every colored person, by requiring merely a "*general description*," and by casting out the evidence of the person arrested. 5. It seeks to annul the writ of Habeas Corpus, which tends to secure justice and liberty by delivering a person from false imprisonment, or by removing a case from one court to another. 6. It imposes excessive fines. 7. It denies the citizen a Jury Trial, where his liberty, and perhaps his life, is at stake.

OBJECTIONS.—It violates the spirit and letter of the Constitution, in the form and manner of seizures or arrests; in its requirements upon good citizens, in imposing excessive fines, in crushing the Habeas Corpus, and in depriving the person arrested of a trial by a jury of his peers. 2. It contravenes the Law of Nature, which is the foundation of all human laws, and which, being dictated by the Almighty himself, is of course superior in obligation to any other. Therefore this enactment of Congress is both unjust and unreasonable, consequently becomes of no binding force—is null and void.

Let it be placed among the abominations!

S. M. AFRICANUS, Hartford, Ct.

I.
Shame on the costly mockery of piling stone on stone
To those who won our liberties, the Heroes dead and gone,
While we look coldly on and see law-shielded ruffians slay
The men who fain would win *their own*, the Heroes of *to-day*!

II.
Are we pledged to craven silence? O fling it to the wind,
The parchment wall that bars us from the least of human kind—
That makes us cringe and temporise, and dumbly stand at rest,
While Pity's burning flood of words upheaves within the breast.

III.
Though we break our fathers' promise, we have nobler duties first,
The traitor to humanity is the traitor most accursed —
Men is more than Constitutions; better rot beneath the sod,
Than be true to Church and State, while we're doubly false to God.



1. A. What are the objections listed in the 'Synopsis of the Law'? (RI/RL.1.1-2.1)

B. What is the central idea of the 'Synopsis of the Law'? (RI/RL.6.2)



Worksheet

Fugitive Slave Law Worksheet

Directions: Complete the table below as you read the Fugitive Slave Act. Use it to record important parts of the law and to help you organize your thinking.

<p>How does the law affect each group? (W.1.8-W.5.8)</p> <p>Officials of the Circuit Court, Marshals, and Commissioners</p> <p>Escaped Slaves (fugitives)</p>	<p><u>Important Quotes</u> (W/WHST.6.-8.9)</p>
<p>Owners of fugitive slaves</p> <p>Citizens who assist fugitives</p>	<p><u>Comprehension Questions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What people, groups, or geographic regions gain power under this law? (RI/RL.2.1-RI/RL.4.1) 2. Which people, groups, and regions lose power? (RI/RL.2.1-RI/RL.4.1) 3. What powers or rights are gained and lost? (RI/RL.2.1-RI/RL.4.1)

C. Reading Passage Three

The New York Times

The Fugitive Slave Law.

Published: December 10, 1860

Senator DOUGLAS has given notice of his intention to introduce a bill amending the Fugitive Slave law of 1850, so as to provide more effectually for the recovery of "persons held to service escaping from one State to another." We have no intimation of the character of its provisions. But if it should be framed in the proper spirit and with due regard to the exigencies of the case, it cannot fail to pave the way for action on the part of the Northern States, which may give the Union men of the South a better basis for their efforts to preserve the Union than they have at present.

There are two objects to be accomplished by amendments of the Fugitive Slave law, -- one, the more effective operation of that law in securing the return of fugitives, -- the other, the removal of those features of it which have put freemen at the North in jeopardy, and have thus led to the enactment of the obnoxious Personal Liberty bills. Fortunately, these measures depend upon each other. Whatever secures the latter, secures the former also. Mr. DOUGLAS knows enough of Northern sentiment to understand the necessity of removing all just ground of complaint, in order to secure the execution of the law. There is unquestionably a very strong feeling against the surrender of any fugitive slave; -- but this sentiment will yield to the conviction of the absolute and imperative Constitutional duty of surrender, if that conviction is only allowed fair play, -- by being left untrammelled and unhampered by valid objections to the law.

It seems to us, therefore, that certain concessions can be made to Northern feeling on this point, not only without the slightest risk of impairing the efficiency of the law, but on the contrary, with the certainty of increasing it -- and with the additional advantage of securing the prompt repeal of the Personal Liberty bills, which find their only support in the sentiment of hostility to these harsh features of the existing act.

This done, there is one other provision which should be made to secure the interests of the South in this matter -- namely, compensation for such of their fugitives as may be

unconstitutionally " released from service," either by legislation or by violence, in any State. It is easy to find plausible objections to such a provision -- and somewhat difficult, perhaps, to frame its details so as to be perfectly satisfactory. But its main object is substantially just, and will be felt to be so by the great body of the people; -- and if there is a general agreement on the main principle, there will be no unconquerable obstacle in the way of giving it an acceptable shape.

The Chicago Tribune has a long and able article protesting against the whole scheme. We have no disposition to urge it in a controversial spirit, -- nor do we think any vindication of its essential justice and necessity required. In regard to its alleged expensiveness, however, we think the Tribune is entirely at fault, in assuming that 100,000 or 50,000 or any such number of fugitives would have to be paid for annually. We have no recent reliable statistics on the subject, -- but the last census returns gave the following statement of the number of fugitive slaves which each slaveholding State lost in the year 1850:

Alabama.....	29	Mississippi.....	41
Arkansas.....	21	Missouri.....	60
Delaware.....	26	North Carolina.....	64
Florida.....	18	South Carolina.....	10
Georgia.....	89	Tennessee.....	70
Kentucky.....	96	Texas.....	29
Louisiana.....	90	Virginia.....	83
Maryland.....	279	Total.....	1,011

As a matter of course the border States lose the most. Maryland lost 1 in 320 of the whole number of her slaves; Missouri, 1 in 1,450; Kentucky, 1 in 2,100; Georgia, 1 in 2,700, and Louisiana, 1 in 4,000. Since the date of these statistics the number of fugitives has probably increased, -- perhaps 50 per cent. -- which gives about 1,500 as the number annually lost to the South from this cause.

- B. Using any primary source document, evaluate the NY Times argument against the Chicago Tribune. (RI.8.8)
5. A. According to the latest census report, as reported in the text, what is the mean number of slaves lost in 1850? (6.SP.5)
- B. The article suggests a 50% increase in fugitive slaves over the amounts shown for 1850. Estimate the mean number of fugitive slaves for 1851 by random sampling the border states listed in the article and considering the increased percentage suggested by the NY Times. (7.SP.2,RI.6.7)
- C. Which state has the largest ratio of slaves? (6.RP.1)

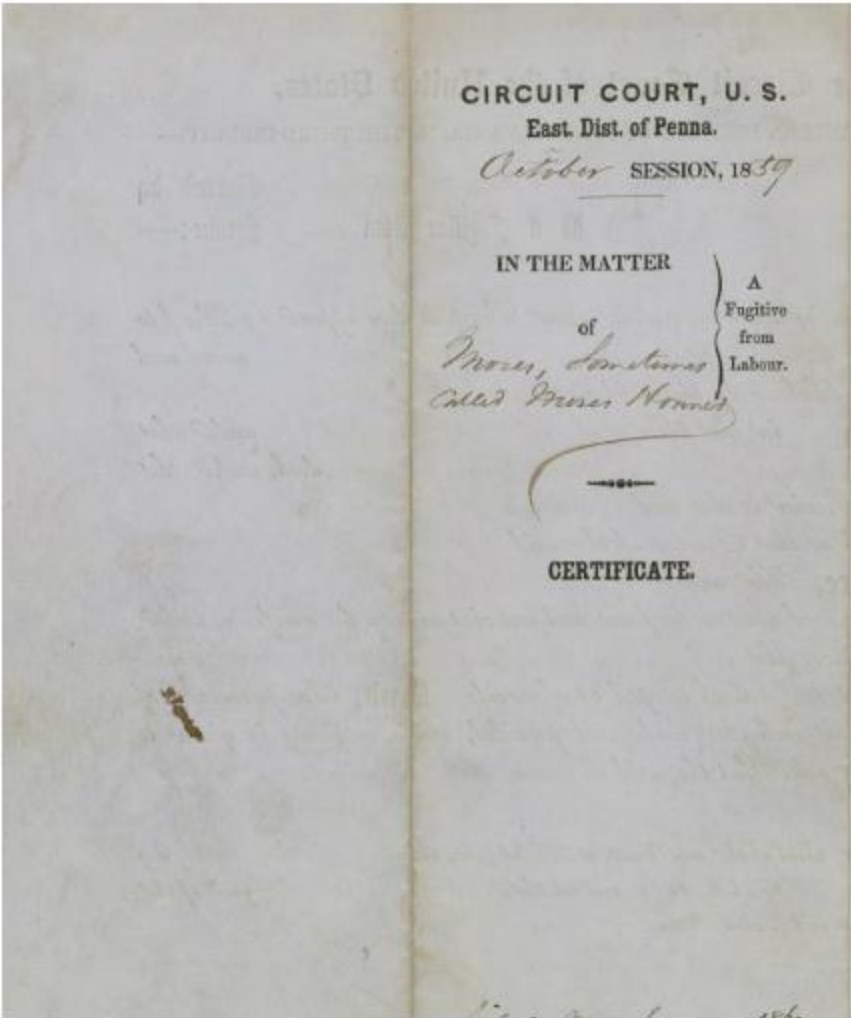
Explain your answer.

D. Reading Passage Four

Reclaiming Property

The following is an arrest warrant for Moses Honor, a slave from Virginia who escaped to Pennsylvania in August 1859. It is part of the court record documenting his owner's successful efforts to capture Honor. Congress had strengthened the Fugitive Slave Act as part of the Compromise of 1850. The law made it easier for masters to reclaim their "property," strengthened the Federal Government's role in returning slaves, and reduced a slave's legal protection.

<http://docsteach.org/documents/279023/detail?menu=closed&mode=search&sortBy=relevance&q=slaves&era%5B%5D=civil-war-and-reconstruction&page=2>



United States of America,
Eastern District of Pennsylvania,

In the Circuit Court of the United States,

SEC. IN AND FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, IN THE THIRD CIRCUIT:—

In the Case of *Moss*, sometimes called *Moses Nonner* Claimed by
Charles J. Butler — as a Fugitive from his Service:—

*Subscribed
Judge*

We do certify, That having heard the Parties above named, in open Court, it does appear by Proof, to our satisfaction, that the said *Moss*, sometimes called *Moses Nonner*, seized and arrested in the District aforesaid, was held to Labour by the said *Charles J. Butler* - of the County of *Sufferson* - in the State of *Virginia* - under the Laws of the said State; and that the said *Moss*, sometimes called *Moses Nonner*, doth, under the Laws of the said State, owe Labour or Service to the said *Charles J. Butler* - and hath Escaped from the said State, and from the Service of the said *Charles J. Butler* -

Wherefore, The said *Charles J. Butler* -

his Agent or Attorney, hath authority to use such reasonable force and restraint as may be necessary, under the circumstances of the Case, to take and remove the said *Moss*, sometimes called *Moses Nonner* back to the State or Territory from whence he hath escaped as aforesaid: And, In pursuance of the Act of Congress of the United States, in such case made and provided, this Certificate is given to the said *Charles J. Butler* - in order that the said *Moss*, sometimes called *Moses Nonner*, may be removed back to the said State of *Virginia*

Given under our Hand and the Seal of the said Court, at Philadelphia, this *Twenty Eighth* day of *March* A. D. 186*0* and in the *eighty fourth* year of the Independence of the said United States.

J. B. Bland
Jr. (U. S. Dist. Ct.)

Transcript of Warrant for the Arrest of Moses Honor

John Cadwalader Judge

We do certify, that having heard the Parties above named, in open Court, it does appear by Proof, to our satisfaction, that the said Moses, sometimes called Moses Honnor seized and arrested in the District aforesaid, was held to Labour by the said Charles T. Butler - of the County of Jefferson - in the State of Virginia - under the Laws of the said State; and that the said Moses sometimes called Moses Honner doth, under the Laws of the said State, owe Labour or Service to the said Charles T. Butler - and hath escaped from the said State, and from the Service of the said Charles T. Butler. Wherefore, the said Charles T. Butler -his Agent or Attorney, hath authority to use such reasonable force and restraint as may be necessary, under the circumstances of the case, to take and remove the said Moses, sometimes called Moses Honner, back to the State or Territory from whence he hath escaped as aforesaid: And, In pursuance of the Act of Congress of the United States, in such case made and provided, this Certificate is given to the said Charles T. Butler - in order that the said Moses sometimes called Moses Honner may be removed back to the said State of Virginia Given under our Hand and the Seal of the said Court, at Philadelphia, this Twenty Eighth day of March A.D. 1860 and in the Eighty fourth year of the Independence of the said United States.

M. Burchard



Use the information presented in the Fugitive Slave Law and in the arrest warrant for Moses Honor to answer the questions below.

1. Which section of the Fugitive Slave Law (FSL) gives Judge Cadwalder the right to issue this warrant? (RI.3.9)

2. A. Which section of the FSL details the procedures required to file a warrant?
(RI.5.9)

B. Were these procedures followed in the issuance of the arrest warrant for Moses Honnor? (RI.5.9) Cite specific examples to support your answer.
(RI.8.8)

3. According to the FSL and the details given in this arrest warrant, whose responsibility is it to execute the warrant? (RI/RL.2.1)

4. Paraphrase the following extract from the warrant. (RI.5.4, W.5.8)

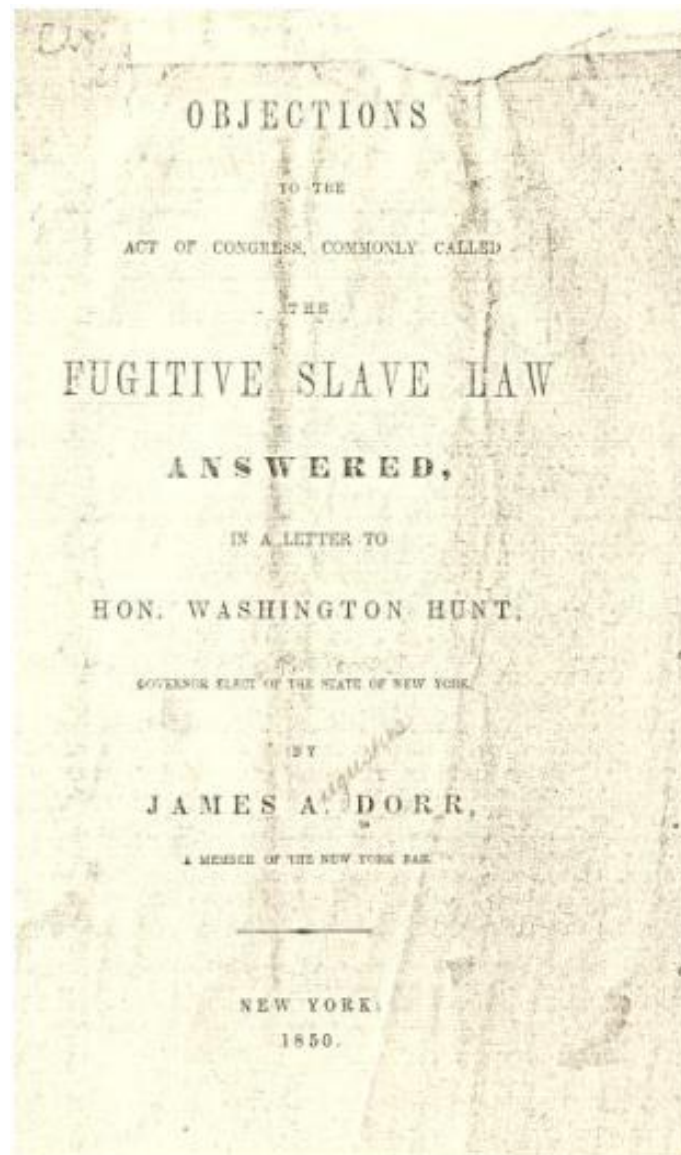
“And, In pursuance of the Act of Congress of the United States, in such case made and provided, this Certificate is given to the said Charles T. Butler - in order that the said Moses sometimes called Moses Honner may be removed back to the said State of Virginia.”

E. Reading Passage Five

A Response to Objections to the Fugitive Slave Law

Judge James A. Dorr responded to the questions raised by various individuals/organizations regarding the legality of The Fugitive Slave Law.

In this document Mr. Dorr replies to five main objections voiced by people. Read this extract of his summary to this document.



Note: This document may be reviewed in its entirety at <http://archive.org/stream/objectionstoact00ldorr#page/n7/mode/2up>

I have thus replied to the five objections most frequently made to this law. If the replies be well grounded it must be admitted that the law is a fair and sincere attempt to carry out the spirit of the Constitution. It is very much more favorable to the alleged fugitive, than I, before carefully analysing it, imagined, and being a law of Southern origin, we are to infer that all its favorable provisions were *expressly intended* by the framers of the bill. It deprives the fugitive of no privileges which he legally had before, while it confers upon him powers and rights which he had not before. It ought, in my opinion, to be satisfactory to all good citizens, who honestly and *bonâ fide* desire and intend to maintain the Constitution and the Union of the United States.

But whatever may be the opinion of any individual as to the expediency of the law, it is OUR DUTY TO GIVE IT A FAIR TRIAL, and, so long as it exists upon the Statute books, to execute it faithfully and honorably according to its intent. If it should be found in practical operation to work injustice and not to fulfil its proper purpose, we may then proceed, and cause it to be, constitutionally and legally, altered and amended.

I am, sir, respectfully,

Your fellow-citizen,

JAMES A. DORR.

69 WALL-ST., NEW-YORK, }
 NOVEMBER 15th, 1850. }



Directions: Use the information provided in the excerpt above to answer the following questions.

1. What inferences can you make from this summary? Cite specific textual evidence in your response.
 - a. When was this response written? What is Judge Dorr's feelings towards the Fugitive Slave Law?(RI/RL.2.1)

 - b. Cite examples in the text which explicitly state Judge Dorr's position? (RI/RL.4.1, Ri/RL.7.1)

2. What does the word 'alleged' mean as it is used in the text? (RI.5.4)
 - a. How does this word influence the tone of the message? (RI/RL.6.4, RI/RL.9-10.4)

3. What is Judge Dorr's main point in this summary? (RI.2.6)
 - a. What opinions/facts does he provide to support his response to allegations that the Fugitive Slave Law is not fair? (RI.8.6, RI.9-10.6)

- b. What is your own point of view of the Fugitive Slave Law? Use facts to support your answer. (RI.3.6)
- c. List the accounts Judge Dorr gives in support of the Fugitive Slave Law. (RI.5.6)

Directions: Go to the full document found at:

<http://archive.org/stream/objectionstoact00lcdorr#page/n7/mode/2up>

and paraphrase the five objections that Judge Dorr responded to. (W.5.8)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

F. Reading Passage Six

Opposition to The Fugitive Slave Law

Directions: As you read through the newspaper article published in the October 24, 1850 issue of The North Star, complete the worksheet below.

WRITTEN DOCUMENT ANALYSIS



First Look

Type of Document (Check):

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Map | <input type="checkbox"/> Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Congressional Record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Telegram | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum | <input type="checkbox"/> Census Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patent | <input type="checkbox"/> Press Release | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Unique Physical Characteristics of the Document (check one or more):

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting Letterhead | <input type="checkbox"/> Typed | <input type="checkbox"/> Notations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handwritten | <input type="checkbox"/> Seals | <input type="checkbox"/> Received stamp | |

Date(s) of the Document:

Author (or Creator) of the Document:

Position (Title):

For what audience was the document written?

Document Content Information

List three phrases or statements that caught your attention or you think are important.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why do you think this document was written?

What in the document helps you know why it was written? Quote from the document.

Why do you think this document was saved?

Was the document meant to be viewed by the public or a specific person or group?

List two things the document tells you about life in the United States at the time it was written.

- 1.
- 2.

Write a question to the author that is left unanswered by the document.



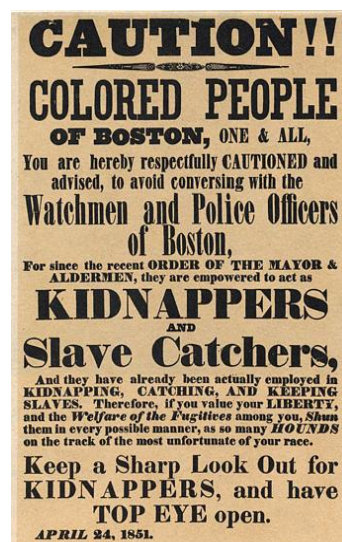
Worksheet

Resolved!

The Standard has received the following report of a meeting held at New Brighton, Beaver Co., P.:

At a meeting of the inhabitants of New Brighton, held in Temperance Hall, Oct. 9. 1850, called to consider the recent Fugitive Slave Law, and the best means to resist its execution, the following resolutions were offered by Henry C. Wright, and, after a full and animated discussion by him and others, were adopted with great unanimity and enthusiasm:

1. **Resolved**, That all slaves owe it as a sacred duty to themselves, to their children, and to their God, to escape from Slavery , by running away, or by such other means as in their opinion, are right and best adapted to secure to them and to their children their inherent and inalienable right to liberty.
2. **Resolved**, That the man or the woman who, under any pretext whatever, shall refuse to help slaves to escape from Slavery , as opportunity offers, by secreting, harboring and feeding them, and by furnishing means to elude the slave-hunter, he or she should be regarded and treated as a kidnapper , and as a traitor to God and Humanity.
3. **Resolved**, That any man who, as Judge, Commissioner, Marshal, Deputy Marshal, or assistant, or who in any way, officially or unofficially, shall aid in or abet the execution of the recent Fugitive Slave Law, is a deadly enemy to the virtue, peace and safety of us and our families, and ought to be regarded and treated as horse thieves, highway robbers, murderers and other high criminals are treated, inasmuch as he prowls about among us as a beast of prey, seeking to consign us and our families to the pollutions and horrors of American Slavery.
4. **Resolved**, That we will do what we can to hold up to the contempt and execration of our children, and of our friends and neighbors, all who, officially or unofficially, shall aid in carrying out Fugitive Slave Law, or shall, in any way, be accessory to the capture and return to Slavery any man, woman or child, who shall come to us for protection against slaveholders and their agents.
5. **Resolved**, That those ministers and churches that do not openly and publicly array themselves against and Fugitive Slave Law, to prevent its execution, are not ministers and churches of Christ, but ought to be regarded and treated, by every friend of God and man, as the ministers and synagogues of Satan.
6. **Voted**, That Henry C. Wright be a committee to procure the publication of the above Resolutions in the newspapers of this vicinity and elsewhere.



Source **Collection:** African American Newspapers
Publication: *The North Star*
Date: October 24, 1850

Title: The Fugitive Slave Law
Location: Rochester, New York

Reading Passage Seven:

Use another document analysis worksheet as you review the letter on the following page.



WRITTEN DOCUMENT ANALYSIS



First Look

Type of Document (Check):

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Map | <input type="checkbox"/> Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Congressional Record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Telegram | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum | <input type="checkbox"/> Census Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patent | <input type="checkbox"/> Press Release | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Unique Physical Characteristics of the Document (check one or more):

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting Letterhead | <input type="checkbox"/> Typed | <input type="checkbox"/> Notations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handwritten | <input type="checkbox"/> Seals | <input type="checkbox"/> Received stamp | |

Date(s) of the Document:

Author (or Creator) of the Document:

Position (Title):

For what audience was the document written?

Document Content Information

List three phrases or statements that caught your attention or you think are important.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why do you think this document was written?

What in the document helps you know why it was written? Quote from the document.

Why do you think this document was saved?

Was the document meant to be viewed by the public or a specific person or group?

List two things the document tells you about life in the United States at the time it was written.

- 1.
- 2.

Write a question to the author that is left unanswered by the document.

BOSTON, JUNE 17, 1854.

REV. AND DEAR SIR :

On the promulgation of the Fugitive Slave Act, a new and large field for benevolence was opened in this city. The extent of misery caused by that act is so great and appalling, that we will not here trust ourselves fully to characterize it, presuming that the readiness of your Christian sympathy with the innocent sufferers, counting many hundreds in number, will appeal more strongly to your hearts than any words from us. We ask you, in the name of Humanity, to read this short Circular in your house of worship, on Sunday, with or without comment, according to the dictates of your feelings or sense of propriety, and having done this, to take up a contribution for this charity.

Men may, and do, honestly differ, as to the duty of Christian men, and good citizens in the trying position in which free Massachusetts is placed by this Law ; but we feel safe in assuming that there is no difference of opinion as to our duty in furnishing clothes and food, physicians and medicine, and professional counsel, to the poor, sick, frightened, and bereft men, women, and children, as well escaped slaves as free persons of color, who are hiding in garrets, and corners, and cellars, not yet claimed, but living in a state of mind bordering on distraction. These are very many, comprising the young, middle-aged, and old, of both sexes, actually, in many cases, incapacitated by fear and real danger, from coming to the light of day to earn a living for themselves and their families. We must not let them die. In view of these cases, we ask the contributions of the charitable, for the purpose of relieving the pressing necessities of these children of our common Father.

For some months past, there was but little alarm amongst our colored citizens ; but now another victim has been seized in our city and sent into hopeless bondage. He was a peaceable citizen, honest and industrious. He disturbed nobody. He was a member of a church in Boston ; he had been a Preacher in Virginia, and was an ordained Minister of the Baptist denomination. This wanton and cruel act frightens the poor fugitives who are yet tarrying with us ; they also must flee away from the graves of our fathers. For when a Christian minister is seized and forced off to be a Slave, what colored man is safe ?

We think it is not the will of the Heavenly Father that one of these little ones should perish. They come to us for aid. We ask you to help us, assured that the blessing of those that are ready to perish will fall on you, and He who does not forget the cup of cold water given to a fainting brother will openly reward your beneficence.

In 1851, we sent a similar circular to *each of the churches* in Massachusetts. *Eighty-seven* gave us their contributions, amounting to \$1,484.56. This sum has been applied, exclusively, for the benefit of Fugitive Slaves. Since the passage of the Fugitive Slave Bill, we have assisted two hundred and thirty of our fellow Christians to obtain freedom in another land. We cannot miraculously multiply our few loaves — you can do it with no miracle.

We deem it proper to state that the Vigilance Committee, which we represent, does not, nor ever has, countenanced or counselled a forcible resistance to the execution of the law ; and we wish to add that any society or person, desiring to limit the uses of their contribution, will please indicate it, and may rely on its being faithfully applied as they shall request. Donations may be addressed to FRANCIS JACKSON, 31 Hollis Street, the Treasurer, or to any one of the undersigned Committee of Finance.

Respectfully,

R. E. APTHORP,	ROBERT MORRIS, Jr.
FRANCIS JACKSON,	ELLIS GRAY LORING,
SAMUEL G. HOWE,	H. I. BOWDITCH,
J. A. ANDREW,	S. E. SEWALL.



Directions: Use the text of Judge Dorr in support of the Fugitive Slave Law and the opposing details outlined in the letter above to answer the questions below. (W.5.9-W/WHST.11-12.9)

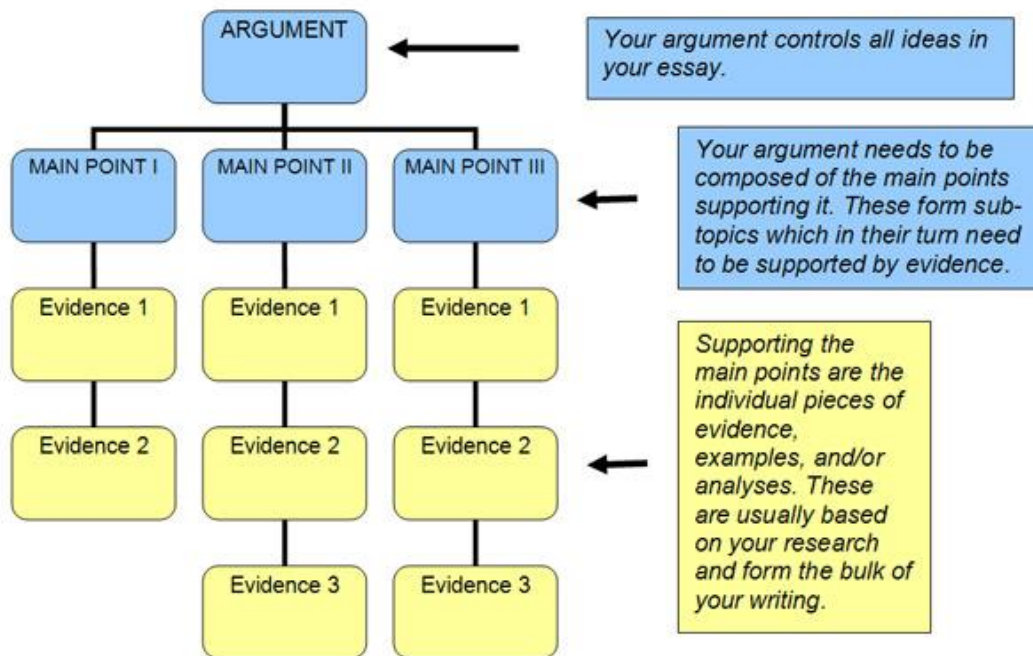
1. Complete the table below to identify opposing views. (RI.3.9-RI.8.9)

Points in support of the law	Points against the law

2. Was the Slave Law of 1850 Unconstitutional? Write an informative essay justifying your opinion. Use facts from the US constitution, the Declaration of Independence, documents from this module, or any other primary source document to support your answer. (W.3.4-W/WHST.11-12.4, W.3.2-W/WHST.6.8.2, W.1.-7-W/WHST.11-12.7)

3. Research opinions for/against The Fugitive Slave Law in the period 1850-1900 to write an argumentative essay in support/not support of this law.(W.3.1-W/WHST.9-10.1) Follow the structure outlined below as you draft ideas for your paper.

ARGUMENT STRUCTURE



Sources:

1. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3a29554/>
2. <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/11171/11171-h/11171-h.htm> (Uncle Tom's Cabin: TABE Levels 1-3)
3. <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/203/203-h/203-h.htm> (Uncle Tom's Cabin: TABE Levels 4-6)
4. <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/teacher-activity-guide-underground-railroad?plimages=n&x=54&y=18#>
5. http://marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/F68E8866-61CB-4AF5-8AE6-F9275A9CEE9C/33051/31_FugitiveSlaveAct_06102012.pdf
6. <http://www.nytimes.com/1860/12/10/news/the-fugitive-slave-law.html>
7. <http://www.accessible-archives.com/?s=fugitive+slave+law+of+1850&Submit.x=0&Submit.y=0>