STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
Assignment 1
Chapters I-III
1. Where and when was Frederick Douglass born? What was his name at birth? What did he know about his parents?
2. How old was Frederick Douglass when he wrote his narrative?
3. Describe Frederick's relationship with his mother. Include the number of times they saw each other, what their visits were like, and Frederick's age when she died.
4. What are Douglass's observations about the mulatto children--those who had a slave mother but a white father, who was usually the slave owner?
5. What are Douglass's observations about this class of mulatto slaves in relation to the south and the American idea of the correctness of slavery?
6. Who was Douglass's first master? Also name the members of his family. Tell where they lived.
7. Describe the slaves' monthly allowance of food and yearly clothing. Describe their beds and bedding.
8. What did Douglass say about the singing of the slaves? How did he feel about the songs?
9. Describe Colonel Lloyd's method for keeping slaves out of his garden.
10. Summarize Douglass's observations about the reasons the slaves usually gave only positive, complimentary comments about their masters.
Assignment 2
Chapters IV-VI
1. Douglass says that Mr. Gore was "cruel, artful, and obdurate." What are the examples that Douglass gives for each of these adjectives about Mr. Gore?
2. What did Mr. Gore do to the slave named Demby? Why did he do this? What punishment did Mr. Gore receive? Why?
3. Who were Mr. Thomas Lanman, Mrs. Hick, and Mr. Beal Bondy? What did each of them do? What were the results of their actions?
4. How did Master Daniel Lloyd treat the young Douglass?
5. How old was Douglass when he left the Lloyd plantation? Where did he go? With whom did he live there? What was his job?
6. What did Douglass think about his departure from Colonel Lloyd's plantation?
7. To what did Douglass attribute his good fortune?
8. What did Mrs. Auld teach Douglass to do? What did Mr. Auld say when he found out?
9. What did Douglass think about Mr. Auld's comments? What did Douglass decide to do in light of the comments?
10. Compare and contrast the treatment of slaves by the slave owners in the city with the slave owners on the plantations.
Assignment 3
Chapters VII-IX
1. How did Mrs. Auld change during the time that Douglass lived with the Auld family? What made her change?
2. How did Douglass learn to read?
3. How old was Douglass when he read "The Columbian Orator"? What effect did this book have on him?
4. Why did Douglass say that learning to read was a curse instead of a blessing?
5. What word did Douglass hear that was of interest to him? How did he find out the meaning? Why was this word interesting?
6. Describe how Douglass learned to write.
7. What event happened about three years after Douglass began living in Baltimore that again reminded him that he detested slavery?
8. What regret did Douglass express about the time when he was moved from Master Hugh's home to Master Thomas? Why did he have this regret?
9. Douglass says that Master Thomas was a mean man. Which of Thomas's practices was considered the meanest, even among slaveholders?
10. Where did Master Thomas send Douglass, for how long, and why?

Assignment 4
Chapter X
1. What happened to Douglass almost every week for the first six months that he lived with Covey?
2. Douglass says that he was "somewhat unmanageable" when he first went to live with Covey. How does Douglass describe himself after he had been with Covey for a few months?
3. Summarize Douglass's thoughts when he looked at the ships on the Chesapeake Bay.
4. What did Covey do to Douglass when he (Douglass) became sick while fanning the wheat?
5. What did Douglass do as a result of Covey's treatment of him? What was the result of Douglass's actions? What did Douglass do?
6. What suggestion did another slave named Sandy Jenkins give to Douglass? What did Douglass do?
7. Describe the turning point in Douglass's life as a slave that happened when he was with Covey.
8. According to Douglass, what institution is the "mere covering for the most horrid crimes"? What type of slaveholders are the worst? Why does Douglass think this?
9. Describe Douglass's first attempt to run away. Tell who was with him, what the plan was, how far they got in the attempt, and what happened to each of the men after they were caught.
10. What trade did Douglass learn? What was his situation at the end of a year of working at this trade? What was unfair about this situation?
Assignment 5
Chapters XI, Appendix
1. Why didn't Douglass give all of the details of his escape?
2. How did Douglass feel about the underground railroad?
3. Master Hugh sometimes gave Douglass six cents of his wages after he had made six dollars, supposedly to encourage him. What effect did this have on Douglass?
4. Why did Douglass want to hire himself out, even though Master Hugh took most of the wages?
5. When did Douglass succeed in escaping? Where did he go? How did Douglass feel when he arrived in the free state?
6. What motto did Douglass adopt in the free state. Why?
7. Who helped Douglass and what were some of the results of his help?
8. Describe how Frederick Bailey took the name of Douglass. Include all of the names he used, including the name his mother gave him.
9. What newspaper did Douglass begin to read? How did this newspaper affect his ideas and actions?
10. Summarize Douglass's thoughts on the type of Christianity that he calls the slaveholding religion.