

**Frederick Douglass, Chapters 4-8:  
Masters, Overseers, and the Cruelties of Slavery**

*“Do not envy the oppressor, and choose none of his ways; for the perverse person is an abomination to the Lord, but His secret counsel is with the upright.” – Proverbs 3:31-32*

1. Match the people below with their role on the plantation on which Douglass grew up:

Aaron Anthony	Plantation Owner
Edward Lloyd	Chief Agent of the Plantation
Isaac Copper	Farm Overseer
Austin Gore	Enslaved Educator and Physician

2. Douglass describes the Lloyd Plantation as being “secluded, dark, and out-of-the-way,” isolated from any public opinion against slavery. Read Proverbs 3:29 and then list three benefits that come from living in what Douglass called “humane and virtuous communities”:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

3. How many slaves does Douglass estimate Col. Lloyd owned?

4. Douglass writes that “Everybody in the South seemed to want the privilege of whipping somebody else.” Read Proverbs 3:11-12. In 3-5 sentences, describe how the “chastening” in these verses is different from the “whipping” Douglass encountered in his days as an enslaved boy.

5. Douglass observes that a “civilized society” has restraints “which are necessary to the freedom of all its members.” What kind of restraints do you think Douglass meant? How were these restraints absent at the Lloyd Plantation? Answer in 3-5 sentences and use Proverbs 3 in your response.

6. “Submission to violence is the best cure for violence.” According to Douglass, when it came to the relationship between enslaved people and their overseers, was this true or false?

7. What is the best explanation for why the enslaved people sang?

To avoid getting in trouble with their masters

To show how happy and content they were

To relieve the sorrow of their aching hearts

8. Give the definitions of the following three words Douglass uses in his narrative (use a dictionary and pay attention to the context in which the word is used):

1) Gormandizer:

2) Ostler:

3) Lampers:

9. What animal did Douglass develop a fondness for as a boy?

Dogs

Horses

Birds

10. Douglass describes both the cruelty and the misery of his masters and overseers. Many of these characteristics are found in Proverbs 3 and 4. Identify five of these characteristics from Proverbs 3 and 4 and how someone from Douglass' story illustrates it. The first one is done for you:

1) **Inability to get good sleep** (Proverbs 3:24; 4:16). Douglass says that the slaves, sleeping in very poor conditions, slept more soundly than the Lloyds, who experienced many physical ailments because of their indulgent lifestyle (Douglass p. 36).

2)

3)

4)

5)