**My Bondage and My Freedom by Frederick Douglass**

**Selection Test A**

Directions: Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.

1. What does Douglass like most about Baltimore life in My Bondage and My Freedom?

A. changes in the weather

B. learning to read and write

C. playing with the boys in the street

D. working for Mr. and Mrs. Auld

2. Based on My Bondage and My Freedom, which statements express Douglass’s beliefs?

I. Slavery is an unnatural state for both slave and slave owner.

II. Slavery can be endured as long as the slave owner is kind.

III. Slavery destroys both the slave and the slave owners.

IV. Slavery makes enemies out of people who should be friends.

A. I, II, III

B. II, III, IV

C. I, III, IV

D. I, II, IV

3. What made My Bondage and My Freedom an important work in 1855, a few years before the Civil War?

A. It led the North eventually to declare war on the South.

B. It presented a scathing portrait of a slave-owning family.

C. It was one of few books written from a former slave’s viewpoint.

D. It revealed the forbidden practice of teaching slaves to read.

4. What common attitudes does My Bondage and My Freedom challenge?

I. Slaves were incapable of reading and writing.

II. Slaves were not the equal of their whites.

III. Slaves wished to escape their enslavement.

IV. Slaves were comfortable with their position in life.

A. I, II, III

B. I, II, IV

C. I, III, IV

D. II, III, IV

5. If your purpose for reading is to understand slavery’s effect on people, what conclusion can you draw about Mrs. Auld’s opposition to Douglass’s learning to read in My Bondage and My Freedom?

A. Mrs. Auld should have fought to resist slavery.

B. Mrs. Auld did not possess a strong conscience.

C. Mrs. Auld’s conscience was destroyed by slavery.

D. Mrs. Auld should have fed and clothed more slaves.

6. Given what Douglass endures as a slave, what element of My Bondage and My Freedom surprises you?

A. He trades reading lessons for biscuits.

B. He feels real affection for Mrs. Auld.

C. His learning makes him unhappier.

D. The Aulds try to keep him ignorant.

7. In My Bondage and My Freedom, what does Douglass suggest will probably happen to the white boys in the future, when they are older and dealing with “the cares of life”?

A. They will one day help him escape from his owners.

B. They will likely accept slavery when they become adults.

C. They will grow up to be abolitionists and resist slavery.

D. They will be overwhelmed by business concerns.

8. If your purpose in reading My Bondage and My Freedom was to find out how a former slave wrote world-famous books, which question might you ask before reading?

A. How did Douglass escape slavery?

B. How did Douglass end up in Baltimore?

C. How did Douglass learn to write?

D. How did Douglass meet Mrs. Auld?

9. What is Douglass’s final judgment of Mrs. Auld in My Bondage and My Freedom?

A. She should not have taught him to read.

B. She should have helped him to escape.

C. She was not well-suited to slavery.

D. She could not run a household well.

10. What is an important message in My Bondage and My Freedom?

A. Slaveowners and slaves should be friends.

B. The wish for freedom can be rooted out of one’s soul.

C. Slaves have a generally good life in Baltimore.

D. A kind owner cannot relieve the injustice of slavery.

**Vocabulary**

11. At first, Douglass says, his mistress acted in a benevolent manner. He means that she acted toward him.

A. indifferently

B. selfishly

C. kindly

D. brutally

12. When Mrs. Auld caught Douglass reading, she would sometimes rush at him in consternation, or , and grab it from him.

A. elation

B. delight

C. shock

D. anger

**Essay**

13. How do you think you might have handled the changes Douglass discusses in My Bondage and My Freedom? In a brief essay, offer a response that describes how you might have reacted to events if you had been in Douglass’s position.