

frederick douglass narrative pdf

frederick douglass narrative pdf is a widely sought-after resource for scholars, students, and readers interested in American history, abolitionism, and autobiographical literature. This document provides the full text of "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave," a groundbreaking work originally published in 1845. The narrative offers a firsthand account of Douglass's experiences as a slave and his journey to freedom, providing invaluable insights into the brutal realities of slavery and the resilience of the human spirit. Accessing the frederick douglass narrative pdf allows readers to engage with the text directly, facilitating deeper study and appreciation of Douglass's eloquence and activism. This article explores the historical significance of the narrative, its key themes, the benefits of accessing it in PDF format, and guidance on how to find reputable versions for research or personal use. The following table of contents outlines the main areas covered.

- Historical Context of the Narrative
- Key Themes in Frederick Douglass's Narrative
- Significance and Impact of the Narrative
- Advantages of Accessing the Narrative in PDF Format
- How to Find a Reliable Frederick Douglass Narrative PDF

Historical Context of the Narrative

The frederick douglass narrative pdf captures a pivotal moment in American history when the

abolitionist movement was gaining momentum. Published in 1845, the narrative was one of the earliest autobiographies by a former slave, providing a powerful firsthand testimony of the institution of slavery. Douglass wrote the narrative to expose the inhumanity of slavery and to advocate for its abolition. His eloquent prose and vivid descriptions helped sway public opinion in the North against slavery. Understanding the historical context of the narrative is essential to grasp its significance as both a literary work and a political tool.

Frederick Douglass's Background

Born into slavery around 1818 in Maryland, Frederick Douglass escaped to the North in 1838. Prior to his escape, he endured harsh treatment, deprivation of education, and the constant threat of violence. His ability to learn to read and write was a critical factor in his eventual emancipation and activism. The narrative chronicles these experiences and highlights the systemic cruelty of slavery.

Slavery in 19th Century America

The narrative provides a detailed account of the conditions enslaved people faced in the antebellum South. It depicts the legal and social structures that upheld slavery, including the denial of education, family separations, and physical abuse. This historical background enriches the reader's understanding of the societal challenges Douglass confronted.

Key Themes in Frederick Douglass's Narrative

The frederick douglass narrative pdf explores several enduring themes that resonate with readers and scholars alike. These themes not only illuminate Douglass's personal journey but also shed light on broader issues related to freedom, identity, and human rights.

Freedom and Self-Emancipation

A central theme of the narrative is the quest for freedom. Douglass's determination to escape slavery and claim his independence serves as a testament to human resilience and courage. The narrative emphasizes that freedom was not simply a physical state but also an intellectual and spiritual liberation.

The Power of Education

Douglass highlights education as a crucial tool in undermining the institution of slavery. Learning to read and write empowered him to articulate his experiences and advocate for abolition. The narrative stresses the transformative impact of literacy on enslaved individuals.

Injustice and Moral Corruption

The narrative exposes the moral contradictions of a society that condoned slavery. Douglass critiques the hypocrisy of Christian slaveholders and the legal system that perpetuated injustice. This theme invites readers to reflect on ethical issues surrounding human rights and dignity.

Significance and Impact of the Narrative

The Frederick Douglass narrative PDF is not only an important historical document but also a landmark in American literature and civil rights advocacy. Its publication galvanized the abolitionist movement and continues to influence social justice discourse today.

Influence on Abolitionism

Douglass's narrative provided compelling evidence against slavery and was used extensively by abolitionists in speeches and publications. Its vivid depictions of cruelty helped to humanize enslaved people and generate empathy among Northern audiences.

Contribution to American Literature

The narrative is celebrated for its literary qualities, including its use of rhetoric, vivid imagery, and autobiographical storytelling. It established a genre of slave narratives that combined personal testimony with social critique.

Legacy in Civil Rights

Beyond its immediate abolitionist impact, the narrative laid groundwork for future civil rights movements. Douglass's advocacy for equality and justice resonates in ongoing struggles against racial discrimination.

Advantages of Accessing the Narrative in PDF Format

Utilizing a frederick douglass narrative pdf offers several practical benefits for readers and researchers. The PDF format ensures accessibility, portability, and ease of use, making it an ideal medium for engaging with this classic text.

- **Portability:** PDFs can be downloaded and read offline on various devices, including computers,

tablets, and smartphones.

- **Searchability:** The text within PDFs is searchable, allowing users to quickly locate specific passages or themes.
- **Preservation of Formatting:** PDF files maintain the original formatting of the document, ensuring that readers experience the narrative as intended.
- **Annotation Features:** Many PDF readers allow users to highlight text, add notes, and bookmark pages for study purposes.
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How to Find a Reliable Frederick Douglass Narrative PDF

When searching for a Frederick Douglass narrative PDF, it is important to choose reputable sources to ensure accuracy and completeness. Various institutions and archives provide free and legal access to the narrative.

Academic and Government Resources

Many universities and government archives host versions of the narrative that are scanned from original copies. These sources often provide high-quality PDFs with verified text.

Digital Libraries and Historical Archives

Platforms dedicated to preserving historical texts frequently offer downloadable PDFs of the narrative. These include libraries specializing in American history and abolitionist literature.

Considerations for Quality and Legality

It is essential to verify that the PDF is a faithful reproduction of the original text and that its distribution complies with copyright laws. Avoid unofficial versions that may contain errors or editorial modifications.

1. Check the publisher or hosting organization's credibility.
2. Look for versions with clear bibliographic information and annotations.
3. Prefer PDFs in text-based formats rather than scanned images for better accessibility.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find a free PDF of Frederick Douglass's narrative?

You can find a free PDF of Frederick Douglass's narrative, "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave," on websites like Project Gutenberg, Google Books, and the Library of Congress.

What is the significance of Frederick Douglass's narrative in American history?

Frederick Douglass's narrative is significant because it provides a powerful first-person account of slavery, highlighting its brutality and the struggle for freedom, and it helped fuel the abolitionist movement in the 19th century.

Is the PDF version of Frederick Douglass's narrative available with annotations or study guides?

Yes, some PDF versions of Frederick Douglass's narrative come with annotations, introductions, and study guides to help readers understand the historical context and literary significance.

What themes are explored in Frederick Douglass's narrative PDF?

The narrative explores themes such as the brutality of slavery, the quest for freedom, the power of literacy and education, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Can I use Frederick Douglass's narrative PDF for educational purposes?

Yes, Frederick Douglass's narrative is in the public domain, so you can freely use the PDF for educational purposes, including teaching, research, and presentations.

How reliable are the PDF versions of Frederick Douglass's narrative found online?

Most PDF versions from reputable sources like academic institutions, Project Gutenberg, or government archives are reliable and faithful reproductions of the original text.

Additional Resources

1. *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*

This is the original autobiography of Frederick Douglass, detailing his life from slavery to becoming a leading abolitionist. The narrative provides a powerful firsthand account of the brutal realities of slavery and Douglass's journey to freedom. It is a foundational text in American literature and history.

2. *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom* by David W. Blight

This Pulitzer Prize-winning biography offers a comprehensive look at Douglass's life, combining his personal narrative with historical context. Blight explores Douglass's impact as an orator, writer, and activist. The book provides insight into the complexities of Douglass's character and the era he lived in.

3. *Douglass and Lincoln: How a Revolutionary Black Leader Created a New America* by James Oakes

This book examines the relationship between Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Oakes highlights how Douglass's activism influenced Lincoln's policies on slavery and emancipation. The narrative sheds light on their collaboration during a transformative period in American history.

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

This is Douglass's second autobiography, expanding on his earlier narrative with more detail and reflection. It provides deeper insights into his thoughts on slavery, freedom, and the fight for civil rights. The book also addresses Douglass's evolving political views and strategies.

5. *The Frederick Douglass Papers* edited by John W. Blassingame

This multi-volume collection compiles Douglass's writings, speeches, and correspondence. It offers readers an extensive resource to study his ideas and activism firsthand. The series is invaluable for scholars and anyone interested in Douglass's legacy.

6. *Frederick Douglass: Autobiographies* (Library of America Edition)

This edition brings together Douglass's three autobiographies in one volume: "Narrative of the Life," "My Bondage and My Freedom," and "Life and Times." It provides a comprehensive view of his life story and intellectual development. The collection includes annotations and contextual essays.

7. *Black Reconstruction in America* by W.E.B. Du Bois

While not solely about Douglass, this classic work includes important analysis of Douglass's role in the Reconstruction era. Du Bois discusses Douglass's leadership and vision for African American progress post-Civil War. The book situates Douglass within the broader struggle for racial justice.

8. *Frederick Douglass and the Politics of Oratory* by Benjamin Quarles

This book focuses on Douglass's skills as a public speaker and how he used oratory to advance abolition and civil rights. Quarles examines key speeches and their impact on audiences and political movements. The work highlights the power of rhetoric in social change.

9. *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States* edited by Norman R. Yetman

This collection includes Douglass's narrative among other firsthand slave accounts. It provides comparative perspectives on the experiences of enslaved people. The book is a valuable resource for understanding the diversity and commonalities of slave life in America.

Frederick Douglass Narrative Pdf

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Frederick Douglass' Narrative: A PDF Guide to Freedom and Resistance

Escape the limitations of fragmented online resources and unlock the full power of Frederick Douglass's groundbreaking narrative. Are you struggling to find a reliable, complete, and easily accessible version of Frederick Douglass's Narrative? Tired of sifting through unreliable websites and incomplete excerpts? Do you need a resource that allows for focused study and deeper engagement with Douglass's powerful story of resilience and resistance against slavery? This ebook provides you with a meticulously prepared PDF of the complete text, along with context and analysis to enhance your understanding.

This ebook, *Unlocking Douglass: A Comprehensive Guide to the Narrative*, offers:

A high-quality, complete PDF of Frederick Douglass's Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave.

In-depth analysis of key themes and literary techniques.

Historical context to illuminate Douglass's experiences.

Discussion questions and activities to deepen your understanding.

A comprehensive glossary of key terms and figures.

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Unlocking Douglass: A Comprehensive Guide to the Narrative

Introduction: Understanding the Significance of Douglass's Narrative

Frederick Douglass's Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave stands as a monumental work in American literature and history. Published in 1845, it wasn't just a personal memoir; it was a powerful indictment of slavery, a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, and a pivotal text in the abolitionist movement. Douglass's account, written with breathtaking eloquence and unflinching honesty, shattered the idealized image of slavery often perpetuated by slaveholders, revealing its brutal realities in stark detail. This introduction will explore the historical context surrounding the Narrative's publication, its immediate impact, and its enduring relevance in contemporary discussions about race, justice, and freedom. We'll examine the challenges Douglass faced in writing and publishing his story, the risks he took, and the strategic choices he made to ensure his narrative reached a wide audience and achieved its intended purpose: to galvanize support for abolition. This section will provide the crucial background information necessary to fully appreciate the complexities and significance of Douglass's life and work.

Chapter 1: Early Life and the Brutal Realities of Slavery

This chapter delves into the harrowing details of Douglass's early life, exposing the brutal realities of slavery in antebellum Maryland. We will analyze his experiences as a child, witnessing firsthand the dehumanizing practices inflicted upon enslaved people, focusing on the systematic stripping away of identity, family separation, and the constant threat of violence. The chapter will examine the psychological and emotional impact of slavery on Douglass and his community, highlighting the strategies of survival and resistance employed by enslaved people despite the overwhelming oppression they faced. Key aspects explored include the pervasive nature of violence and the ways in which it was used to control and terrorize, the disruption of family structures and the enduring impact of this trauma, and the subtle yet powerful forms of resistance enacted by those enslaved. This provides critical context for understanding the motivations behind Douglass's escape and his later advocacy for abolition.

Chapter 2: The Fight for Literacy and its Transformative Power

Literacy was a powerful weapon in the fight against slavery, and this chapter will focus on the pivotal role it played in Douglass's life. The acquisition of reading and writing skills was a dangerous act of rebellion, yet it proved transformative for Douglass. This section will explore the clandestine methods he employed to learn, the risks involved, and the profound impact this knowledge had on his understanding of himself and the world around him. We'll examine how literacy empowered him to challenge the system that sought to keep him and others enslaved, enabling him to access information, interpret texts, and eventually articulate his own powerful narrative. The chapter will also discuss the broader significance of literacy as a tool for empowerment and liberation in the context of oppression. The deliberate denial of education to enslaved people is analyzed as a key strategy of control, emphasizing the subversive nature of Douglass's pursuit of knowledge.

Chapter 3: Douglass's Escape and Journey to Freedom

Douglass's escape from slavery is a dramatic and suspenseful narrative in itself, and this chapter meticulously examines the planning, execution, and challenges of his journey to freedom. We will detail the steps he took, the dangers he faced, and the support he received from others, revealing the intricate network of assistance that existed within the abolitionist movement. This section will highlight the courage, determination, and strategic thinking that characterized his escape, and will also explore the emotional toll that such an undertaking inevitably imposed. We will analyze the significance of his arrival in the North and the initial challenges of adjusting to life as a free man, setting the stage for his later contributions to the abolitionist cause. The chapter provides valuable insight into the lived experiences of escapees and the support systems crucial for their success.

Chapter 4: Life as a Free Man and the Power of Advocacy

This chapter explores Douglass's life after his escape, focusing on his evolution as an abolitionist leader and public speaker. We will trace his journey from newly freed man to influential orator and writer, highlighting his key contributions to the abolitionist movement and his impact on public opinion. The chapter examines his speaking style, his powerful oratory skills, and the strategic ways in which he used his narrative to advocate for the end of slavery. We'll explore his interactions with other prominent abolitionists, his collaborations, and his strategic choices in engaging with a complex and often hostile society. It also delves into the formation of his anti-slavery philosophy and the evolution of his views on various societal injustices.

Chapter 5: Analyzing Douglass's Literary Style and Rhetorical Strategies

This chapter provides a close reading of Douglass's Narrative, analyzing his literary style and rhetorical strategies. We will examine the use of vivid imagery, powerful metaphors, and emotional appeals to create a compelling and persuasive account. The chapter will explore the ways in which Douglass strategically employed different rhetorical techniques to achieve his goals, including pathos, ethos, and logos. A crucial element is the examination of the inherent tension between the personal and the political in his writing, skillfully blending personal experiences with broader social commentary. The chapter will demonstrate how Douglass's mastery of language was instrumental in shaping his narrative's impact, transforming a personal story into a powerful social critique.

Chapter 6: The Narrative's Lasting Impact on the Abolitionist Movement and American Society

This chapter examines the broad impact of Douglass's Narrative, both on the abolitionist movement and American society as a whole. We will explore its role in shaping public opinion, influencing policy debates, and galvanizing action against slavery. The chapter will analyze the ways in which Douglass's account challenged prevailing stereotypes, exposed the brutality of the system, and inspired countless individuals to fight for social justice. We will also discuss its enduring legacy and its continued relevance in contemporary discussions about race, equality, and the fight for human rights. The chapter emphasizes the text's place in the larger body of abolitionist literature and its enduring power to influence contemporary debates on social justice.

Conclusion: Douglass's Legacy and its Continuing Relevance

This concluding chapter will summarize the key themes and insights explored throughout the book, emphasizing the enduring significance of Douglass's Narrative. It will reflect on Douglass's legacy as a writer, abolitionist, and advocate for human rights, highlighting his continuing relevance in the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality. The conclusion will leave the reader with a deeper understanding of the historical context and the ongoing importance of Douglass's story, encouraging further exploration and critical engagement with his work. It also considers how his struggles and triumphs resonate with contemporary challenges related to systemic racism and inequality.

FAQs

1. What makes this ebook different from other online versions of Douglass's Narrative? This ebook offers a high-quality, complete PDF, along with in-depth analysis and contextual information not readily available in fragmented online resources.
2. Is the PDF easily printable and downloadable? Yes, the PDF is optimized for easy printing and downloading.
3. What level of reading comprehension is required? While the language is 19th-century, the narrative is accessible to a wide range of readers. The included analysis provides support for understanding complex themes.
4. Are there any accompanying study materials? Yes, the ebook includes discussion questions and activities to enhance your understanding and engagement with the text.
5. How does this ebook address the historical context of the Narrative? Dedicated chapters analyze the historical context, shedding light on slavery's realities and the abolitionist movement.
6. What is covered in the analysis section of the ebook? The analysis sections cover key themes, literary techniques, rhetorical strategies, and the impact of the narrative.
7. Who is this ebook intended for? This ebook is suitable for students, scholars, educators, and anyone interested in American history, literature, and the fight for social justice.
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frederick douglass narrative pdf: *The Life of Frederick Douglass* David F. Walker, 2019-01-08 A graphic novel biography of the escaped slave, abolitionist, public speaker, and most photographed man of the nineteenth century, based on his autobiographical writings and speeches, spotlighting the key events and people that shaped the life of this great American. Recently returned to the cultural spotlight, Frederick Douglass's impact on American history is felt even in today's current events. Comic book writer and filmmaker David F. Walker joins with the art team of Damon Smyth and Marissa Louise to bring the long, exciting, and influential life of Douglass to life in comic book form. Taking you from Douglass's life as a young slave through his forbidden education to his escape and growing prominence as a speaker, abolitionist, and influential cultural figure during the Civil War and beyond, *The Life of Frederick Douglass* presents a complete illustrated portrait of the man who stood up and spoke out for freedom and equality. Along the way, special features provide additional background on the history of slavery in the United States, the development of photography (which would play a key role in the spread of Douglass's image and influence), and the Civil War. Told from Douglass's point of view and based on his own writings, *The Life of Frederick Douglass* provides an up-close-and-personal look at a history-making American who was larger than life.

frederick douglass narrative pdf: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass Frederick Douglass, 2021-11-16 *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* Frederick Douglass - Former slave, impassioned abolitionist, brilliant writer, newspaper editor and eloquent orator whose speeches fired the abolitionist cause, Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) led an astounding life. Physical abuse, deprivation and tragedy plagued his early years, yet through sheer force of character he was able to

overcome these obstacles to become a leading spokesman for his people. In this, the first and most frequently read of his three autobiographies, Douglass provides graphic descriptions of his childhood and horrifying experiences as a slave as well as a harrowing record of his dramatic escape to the North and eventual freedom. Published in 1845 to quell doubts about his origins since few slaves of that period could write the Narrative is admired today for its extraordinary passion, sensitive and vivid descriptions and storytelling power. It belongs in the library of anyone interested in African-American history and the life of one of the country's most courageous and influential champions of civil rights. A selection of the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

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frederick douglass narrative pdf: My Bondage and My Freedom Frederick Douglass, 2008-08-15 Published in 1855, *My Bondage and My Freedom* is the second autobiography by Frederick Douglass. Douglass reflects on the various aspects of his life, first as a slave and then as a freeman. He depicts the path his early life took, his memories of being owned, and how he managed to achieve his freedom. This is an inspirational account of a man who struggled for respect and position in life.

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frederick douglass narrative pdf: [The Cambridge Companion to the African American Slave Narrative](#) Audrey Fisch, 2007-05-31 The slave narrative has become a crucial genre within African American literary studies and an invaluable record of the experience and history of slavery in the United States. This Companion examines the slave narrative's relation to British and American abolitionism, Anglo-American literary traditions such as autobiography and sentimental literature, and the larger African American literary tradition. Special attention is paid to leading exponents of the genre such as Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, as well as many other, less well known examples. Further essays explore the rediscovery of the slave narrative and its subsequent critical reception, as well as the uses to which the genre is put by modern authors such as Toni Morrison. With its chronology and guide to further reading, the Companion provides both an easy entry point for students new to the subject and comprehensive coverage and original insights for scholars in the field.

frederick douglass narrative pdf: [The Slaves](#) Frederick Douglass, 2016-12-16 The Slaves is nothing but Frederick Douglass's groundbreaking autobiography and his first book Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, written by Himself. We have renamed the title here as The Slaves to keep the title short as well as to establish that Frederick Douglass is no longer a name of a particular slave born in nineteenth-century America, but a name that represents slaves of the entire world and of all time. Even though, we do not wish anyone to be born into slavery anymore like Frederick was, we have taken him as a symbol of all the slaves as a wish that all who are still in slavery may have the spirit of Frederick Douglass and fight their ways to the freedom and work to free other slaves to make the slavery history. The life of Frederick, is in one way or another, is the lives of all other slaves. Hence, we have named this version of his book The Slaves.

frederick douglass narrative pdf: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (Second Edition) Frederick Douglass, 2016-08-31 This revision of the acclaimed and widely assigned Norton Critical Edition of Frederick Douglass's great autobiography Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself includes key examples of literary and cultural analyses that have engaged scholars over the last three decades. This Norton Critical Edition includes: - Frederick Douglass's 1845 Narrative, the most influential autobiography of its kind. - A preface and explanatory footnotes by William L. Andrews and William S. McFeely. - Contemporary perspectives by Douglass, Margaret Fuller, James Monroe Gregory, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. - Essays by William L. Andrews, William S. McFeely, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Deborah E. McDowell, Houston A. Baker, Jr., Jeannine Marie DeLombard, and Robert D. Richardson, Jr. - A Chronology and a Selected Bibliography.

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once brought him into the field of public usefulness, 'gave the world assurance of a MAN, ' quickened the slumbering energies of his soul, and consecrated him to the great work of breaking the rod of the oppressor, and letting the oppressed go free ...The master is frequently compelled to sell this class of his slaves, out of deference to the feelings of his white wife; and, cruel as the deed may strike any one to be, for a man to sell his own children to human flesh-mongers, it is often the dictate of humanity for him to do so; for, unless he does this, he must not only whip them himself, but must stand by and see one white son tie up his brother, of but few shades darker complexion than himself, and ply the gory lash to his naked back; and if he lisp one word of disapproval, it is set down to his parental partiality, and only makes a bad matter worse, both for himself and the slave whom he would protect and defend. About Frederick Douglass, the Author: But Douglass also asked, 'Can any colored man, or any white man friendly to the freedom of all men, ever forget the night which followed the first day of January 1863, when the world was to see if Abraham Lincoln would prove to be as good as his word?' ...From page 33: 'My point here is, first, the Constitution is, according to its reading, an anti-slavery document; and, secondly, to dissolve the Union, as a means to abolish slavery, is about as wise as it would be to burn up this city, in order to get the thieves out of it.

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emerges from the book is a new historical understanding: the arming of slaves is neither uncommon nor paradoxical but is instead both predictable and explicable.

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frederick douglass narrative pdf: Benjamin Franklin's Art of Virtue in Frederick Douglass' "Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass" Kevin J. Zuchanek, 2019-06-19 Seminar paper from the year 2018 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,0, University of Wuppertal, language: English, abstract: This paper aims to show the Franklinian way of thinking towards a virtuous life in Frederick Douglass' Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass and display how this adaptation is noteworthy with respect to slave narratives. Therefore, we will start by looking at several keywords and defining them in order to understand the concept of the Art of Virtue in Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography and then divide the thirteen given virtues into categories. We will continue to apply one category to Frederick Douglass' slave narrative and see in which extent Douglass adopts the Art of Virtue to become a self-made man.

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