

Diary of Resistance Answer Key

Teacher's Guide

You may ask students to follow these parameters when completing this activity:

1. **Begin with a date or heading** (you may invent one).
2. **Describe Douglass's emotions** in detail.
3. **Include at least one sensory image** (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell).
4. **Connect to the larger theme** (slavery, freedom, knowledge, resistance).
5. **Write at least two paragraphs** (6-8 sentences total).

Note: Student responses will vary widely. Below are model samples to guide teachers in evaluating work.

Moment A - Witnessing Aunt Hester's Whipping

- Diary Entry (sample):

"June 1824. Tonight I saw what no child should ever see. The sound of Aunt Hester's cries pierced the night like knives, each lash cutting not only her back but my heart. The smell of sweat and blood filled the air, and I felt powerless, small, and terrified. I now understand that slavery is not just about work but about pain and control. This night will remain with me forever, for it has shown me the cruelty of a world I cannot escape. I wish for freedom, though I know not how to find it."

Moment C - The Fight with Covey

- Diary Entry (sample):

"August 1834. Today I fought back. When Covey tried to beat me once more, something within me rose like fire. We struggled in the dirt for hours, and though he cursed and struck, I refused to fall. My hands shook, my chest burned, but my spirit soared. For the first time in my life, I felt like a man, not a slave. I know this moment has changed me forever; I will never again let another man break me in body or soul. Freedom is now certain in my heart, though still distant in my reality."