

Unchained Memories: The Slave Narratives

Points _____, Due _____

1. Explain: What are the Slave Narratives?

The Slave Narratives are

2. Why is the Slave Narratives movie called “Unchained Memories?”

The Slave Narratives are called “Unchained Memories” because

Gather Information

1. While watching the *Slave Narratives*, listen for the stories of the ex-slaves. Take notes on 3 of them. Choose 1 ex-slave to write about (Library of Congress website)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• James Green – Texas, p. 92• Charles Grandy – Virginia, p. 25• Jennie Proctor – Texas, p. 214• Cato Carter – Texas, p. 209• William Colbert – Alabama, p. 87• Mary Estes Peters–Arkansas, p. 328• Louisa Adams– North Carolina, p.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rose Williams – Texas, p. 180• Laura Clark – Alabama, p. 78• Robert Falls – Tennessee, p. 14• Arnold Gragston – Florida, p. 149• Temple Herndon Durham – North Carolina, p. 289• Katie Rowe – Oklahoma, p. 281
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2. Go to Ms. Conway’s website, **Link: The Slave Narratives**

- The collection is “Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers’ Project, 1936 – 1938.”
- Scroll down until you see **Volumes**.
- Find the **state** the ex-slave you want to learn about is from.
- Search for the **ex-slave by their last name**.
 - Select the list of names that correspond to the ex-slaves last name.
- Click on **Slave Narratives images in sequence**.
 - If you choose an ex-slave from the list in your instructions, **click on the first page** and find the page number to go to from the above list.
 - Go to the image pages in the upper left hand corner and type in the page number. Select Go.
 - If you did not choose an ex-slave from the list, then click on **the table of contents, usually the third page**, to find your ex-slave. The pages listed are a little off. You may have to go forward or backward a few pages to find your ex-slave. Look for the page in the upper left corner of the Narrative and the title with his/her name.
 - Go to the image pages in the upper left hand corner and type in the page number. Select Go.

Unchained Memories Movie Note Page

Slave Name _____, State _____

Quick Notes on the Slave Narrative (Story)

Slave Name _____, State _____

Quick Notes on the Slave Narrative (Story)

Slave Name _____, State _____

Quick Notes on the Slave Narrative (Story)

Assignment:

- Create a title page. You can create your own or use the provided model.
- Write 1 – 2 paragraphs on the ex-slave with information from the movie and website. Use the following pages to help you with your paragraphs.

NAME: _____

PER: _____

Unchained Memories: The Slave Narratives



Name of the Slave: _____

Age of Slave: _____

Location of Interview: _____

Name of Interviewer: _____

Source: _____

Collection: _____

Possible Thematic Approach
The Slave Narratives

Assignment Ideas

A longer Story or More than One Story

1. Choose a slave who has a longer story or more than one story to research.

▪ Examples

1. Cato Carter – House slave, Ran away
2. Jenny Proctor – Whipped for stealing biscuit, learned to read
3. Arnold Gragston – Helped on the underground railroad
4. Katie Rowe – Master rather kill slaves than free them, learned of freedom on June 4, 1865
5. William Colbert – Brother January whipped

Thematic

1. Choose a theme about life in slavery
2. Choose two former slaves' stories to illustrate the theme.

▪ Examples

1. Slave punishment
 - William Colbert (brother January)
 - Slave beatings, whippings
 - Jenny Proctor
 - Beaten for stealing biscuit
 - Charles Grandy*
 - Describe whippings - Staked to the ground, cut flesh into squares
2. Difficult choices for slaves
 - Cato Carter
 - Told to kill another slave, ran away instead
 - Rose Williams
 - Told to marry a slave named Rufus to have children for the owner
 - Robert Falls
 - End of Civil War, slaves freed, wander roads
3. Slave Women
 - Mary Estes Peters
 - Attacked by owner's 3 sons
 - Rose Williams
 - Told to marry a slave named Rufus to have children for the owner
 - Jenny Proctor
 - Whipped for stealing
4. Slave Sales. Auctions
 - W.L. Bost*
 - Described slave auctions
 - Laura Clark*
 - As a child her mother was sold
 - James Green
 - As a child his mother was sold

*Not on assignment list

- 5. Runaway Slaves
 - Cato Carter
 - Told to kill another slave, ran instead
 - Arnold Gragston
 - Helped runaways on the Underground Railroad
 - Mary Reynolds*
 - Ran away – caught by hounds
- 6. Slave Life - hardships
 - Louisa Adams
 - One pair of shoes a year, brother's feet cut and bleeding in winter
 - Octavia George
 - Children fed in boxes and troughs – like animals
 - Sarah Ashley, Charles Grandy*, Shang Harris*
 - Not enough food to eat – had to steal to survive
 - Elizabeth Sparks*
 - Aunt had to stand and knit all day
- 7. Civil War and Freedom
 - William Moore*
 - Found out slaves were free
 - Katie Rowe
 - A man came to tell slaves they were free – 4th of June, 1865
 - Owner said he would kill them instead of let the Yankees free them
 - Wash Ingram*
 - Owner freed them a year after the south surrendered – supposed to get 40 acres and a mule, got nothing
 - Robert Falls
 - Wandered roads after freedom – not sure what to do or where go

*Not on assignment list

NAME: _____

PER: _____

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Theme: _____

Name of one of the Slaves:

Age of Slave: _____

Location of Interview: _____

Name of Interviewer: _____

Source: _____

Collection: _____
