



Chapter 12 After You Read

Read each section carefully, then write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Comprehension Review

1. How was Olaudah Equiano separated from his family?
2. Why was Broteer renamed Venture Smith?
3. Where was Broteer captured? Where was he taken?
4. What did Broteer do when James Mumford assaulted him?
5. How did Broteer's actions show his pride and courage?
6. How does the story of Charles Ball show that African family relationships were not valued in the colonies?
7. How did Charles Ball's father show resistance?
8. What was the auction block?
9. Why didn't Sojourner Truth speak English as her owner demanded?

Center Your Thinking

10. Select two of the enslaved Africans discussed in this chapter. Make a chart identifying specific experiences in the lives of these individuals. Analyze your completed chart for similarities and differences. Write a paragraph comparing the individuals and the conditions they endured as a result of the European Slave Trade and the enslavement.

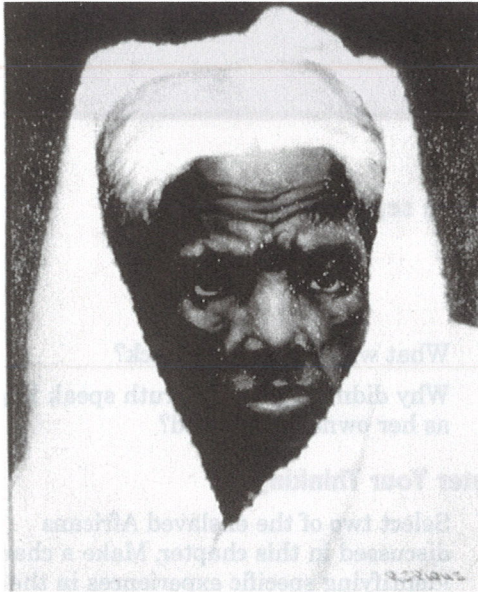
Vocabulary and Concept Development

1. How are the terms *narrative* and *memoirs* alike? Why does the author use both terms interchangeably?
2. A metaphor is a comparison between two things without using the words *like* or *as*. Reread Charles Johnson and Patricia Smith's description of Broteer's capture. Find a metaphor and explain its meaning.
3. A simile is a comparison between two things using the words *like* or *as*. Reread the words of Josiah Henson. Find a simile and explain its meaning.
4. What does the author mean when he states, "The narratives the enslaved told and the ones that lay buried with them . . . "?

Reading a Timeline

Use Unit 3 and Chapter 12 timelines to complete the following:

1. Arrange the following in chronological order:
 - a. Georgia introduces Slave Codes.
 - b. Olaudah Equiano publishes his narratives.
 - c. Enslaved Africans revolt in Stono, South Carolina.
 - d. Enslaved Africans revolt in NYC.
 - e. Phillis Wheatley's poems are published in England.
2. Create a timeline with dates from 1737 to 1849. Title your timeline: *In Their Own Way*. In chronological order, include at least one fact about each of the following: Olaudah Equiano, Broteer (Venture Smith), Charles Ball, Josiah Henson, Harriet Jacobs, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman.



Harriet Tubman, called “Black Moses” by enslaved Africans because of her daring missions to rescue Africans from enslavement, was also an active women’s rights activist.

“My master used to throw me in a buck and whip me. He would put my hands together and tie them. Then he would strip me naked. Then he would make me squat down. Then he would run a stick through behind my knees and in front of my elbows. My knee was up against my chest. My hands was tied together just in front of my shins. The stick between my arms and my knees held me in a squat. That’s what they call a buck. . . . He would whip me on one side till that was sore and full of blood and then he would whip me on the other side till that was all tore up. . . .”

Enslaved for 40 years, Sojourner Truth went on to become a leader against enslavement.

Harriet Tubman

The famous antislavery activist Harriet Tubman was whipped four times before breakfast one morning because the slaveholder’s wife thought she was rude. She was only five years old. Two years later, in 1828, she was whipped mercilessly for tasting sugar, the first time she had ever tried such a sweet. At age 16, she was struck over the head with a two-pound iron weight. When Harriet’s wound healed, she

learned that she and her brothers would be sold in the Deep South. Enslavement in the Deep South (Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi) was considered worse than enslavement in the upper Southern states, such as Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware, because of the hard, backbreaking work required on the cotton and sugar plantations.

Harriet prayed for the slaveholder’s death. She knew that she could not survive enslavement in the Deep South. A few days later, the slaveholder grew ill. The doctor told the family that he was going to die. Word on the plantation spread rapidly. The slaveholder’s personal servant told his wife’s maid who told the kitchen help. From the kitchen word spread to the coachman, stable boys, and the windowless log cabins in the slave quarters where the enslaved lived. The message was transmitted in hushed whispers and furtive gestures. When the slaveholder died, the enslaved Africans working in the field knew about it before the overseer did.

Harriet Tubman was 29 when she escaped to the free state of Pennsylvania in 1849. She explains in her narrative:

“I had reasoned dis out in my mind; there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty, or death; if I could not have one, I would have de oder; for no man should take me alive; I should fight for my liberty as long as my strength lasted, and when de time came for me to go, de Lord would let dem take me.”

The narratives the enslaved told and the ones that lay buried with them are reminders of the cruelty of the system that stimulated much of the American economy. They are the best sources for learning firsthand about the conditions of enslavement. In their own touching words, enslaved Africans described how they lived and worked—the enslavers, the punishments, and, most important, how they saw themselves and their position in America.



Josiah Henson was enslaved for 30 years in Maryland before he ran away and became a Methodist preacher. His memoirs, published in 1849, provided Harriet Beecher Stowe with her model of Uncle Tom.



After escaping enslavement herself, Harriet Tubman, far left, helped 300 relatives, friends, and strangers escape to freedom. Tubman is shown here with some of the people she helped to liberate.



Sojourner Truth was an abolitionist, women's rights activist, and preacher who challenged injustice wherever she saw it.

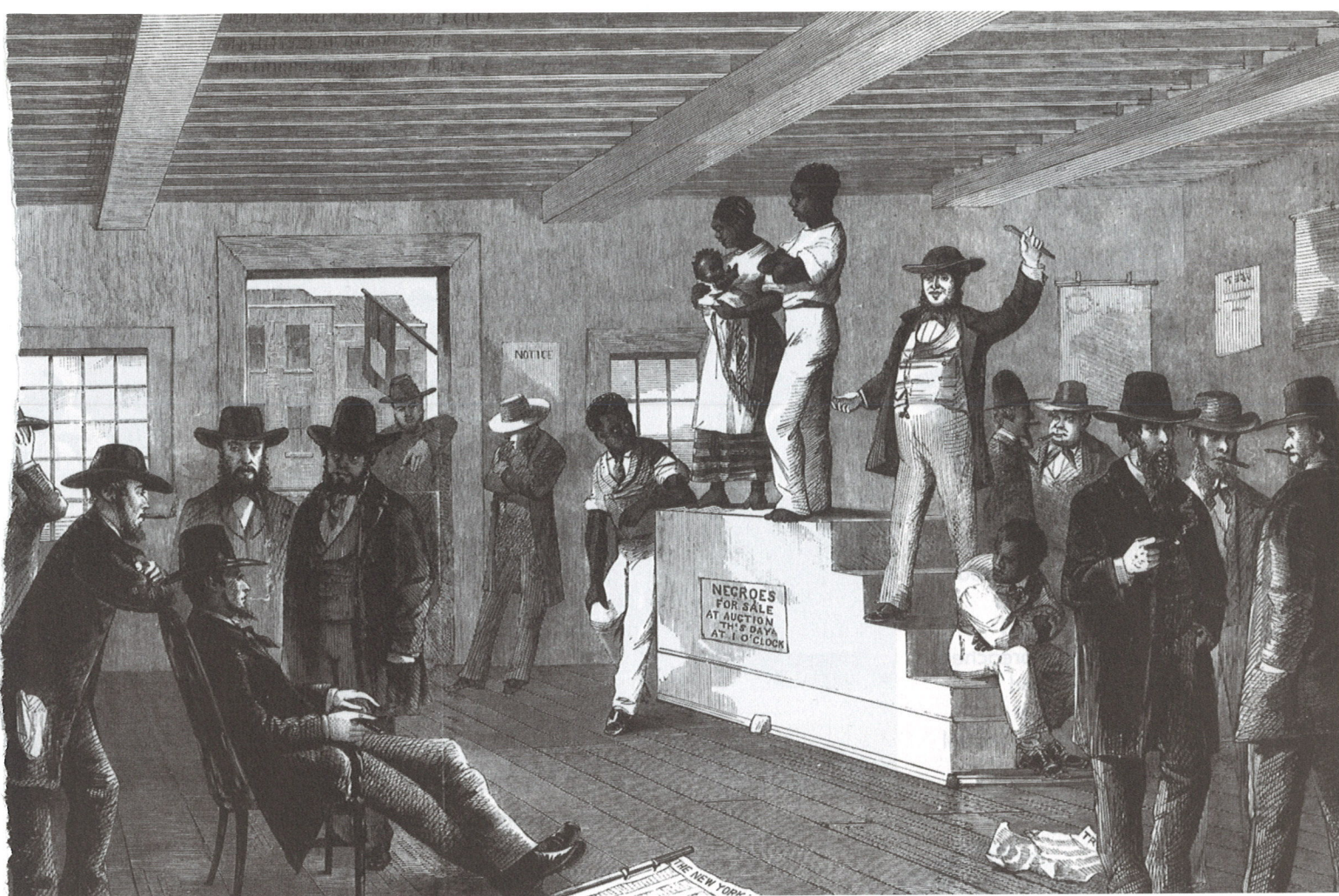
sold to a slave-trader, and a man from her own town bought their mother. Before night her children were all far away. She begged the trader to tell her where he intended to take them; this he refused to do. How could he, when he knew he would sell them, one by one, wherever he could command the highest price? I met that mother in the street and her wild, haggard face lives to-day in my mind. She wrung her hands in anguish, and exclaimed, 'Gone! All gone! Why don't God kill me?'"

Sojourner Truth

Sojourner Truth was first enslaved by a person of Dutch descent. She could not speak English until she was 14 years of age and tells of being whipped because she spoke only Dutch. She recounts the horror of having her clothes torn off and being whipped naked:

slaveholder in the attic. Her only view of the world around her came from a small peephole. She hid in the attic to escape being sold away from her children. Jacobs, who escaped to North Carolina in 1853, tells about a mother who led seven of her children to the auction block:

"She knew that some of them would be taken from her; but they took all. The children were



At slave auctions, Africans were sold to the highest bidder. Children were sold away from their mothers, and husbands and wives were separated. Slave traders tore families apart, indifferent to their common humanity.

Josiah Henson

Josiah Henson escaped from enslavement in 1830. He was 40 years old. In 1849, Henson published a narrative that details his life during enslavement. His account plainly shows that there was nothing joyful about the conditions in which enslaved Africans lived.

(see Journey, p. B3)

"We lodged in log huts and on the bare ground. Wooden floors were an unknown luxury. In a single room were huddled, like cattle, ten or a dozen persons, men, women and children. . . . There were neither bedsteads, nor furniture of any description. Our beds were collections of straw and old rags, thrown down in the corners and boxed in with boards, a single blanket the only

covering. . . . The wind whistled and the rain and snow blew in through the cracks, and the damp earth soaked in the moisture till the floor was miry as a pigsty."

The enslaved were not working for their own betterment, but for that of the slaveholder. Consequently, the houses they lived in, the food they ate, and the clothes they wore were issued by the slaveholder. The **squalor**—filthy conditions—that enslaved Africans were forced to live in was considered adequate by the slaveholders. In addition to the many indignities that the enslaved suffered, they also had to endure the helplessness of the **auction block**, the place where enslaved Africans were bought and sold.

Harriet Jacobs

In her narrative, published in 1861, Harriet Jacobs writes a touching account of the seven years she spent hiding from her cruel

Broteer's life became increasingly difficult. His first job was to cart wool and do other household chores. Soon he was given tasks that were very difficult for a child. He wrote that he "was rigorously punished." By the time he had reached his teens, he had grown strong and more willful and resented those who sought control over his body and mind, particularly Mumford's son, James. According to Broteer, James would order him to do things that were contrary to what he had been ordered to do by the slaveholder. This created tension between the two boys. One day James assaulted Broteer with a pitchfork, an instrument used for moving hay. Young Mumford was severely beaten by Broteer and left the battle in tears, but he never bothered Broteer again.

Charles Ball

Charles Ball tells of the brutality of separating families from one another by selling members away from their kin. Charles Ball's

mother had already been sold away when the slaveholder decided to sell his father to a Georgia slave dealer. Ball writes:

"About midnight, my grandfather silently repaired to the cabin of my father, gave him a bottle of cider and a small bag of parched corn, and then praying to the God of his native country to protect his son, enjoined him to fly from the destruction which awaited him. In the morning, the Georgian could not find his newly purchased slave, who was never seen or heard of in Maryland from that day."

African family relationships were not respected. The values of the slaveholders were defined by profit and they would sell a mother away from a child, or a father away from his wife and children, as easily as they would sell a plow to a neighboring farmer.

The time came when Charles Ball was himself sold away from his family. This is the way he tells the story:

"We all lay down on the naked floor to sleep in our handcuffs and chains. The women, my fellow slaves, lay on one side of the room; and the men who were chained with me, occupied the other. . . . I at length fell asleep, but was distressed by painful dreams. My wife and children appeared to be weeping and lamenting my calamity, and beseeching and imploring my master on their knees not to carry me away from them. My little boy came and begged me not to go and leave him, and endeavored with his little hands to break the fetters that bound me."



Enslaved Africans on plantations were often forced to administer brutal whippings to other enslaved Africans.



Olaudah Equiano was kidnapped at the age of 11 and sold into enslavement. In his narrative, he wrote about his 10 years of enslavement and his two decades as a free man in Europe and America.

an enslaved African written in his own words:

"In one of the most remote and fertile villages named Essaka . . . I was born. The distance of this province from the capital of Benin and the sea coast must be very considerable, for I had never heard of white men or Europeans, nor of the sea."

Two men and a woman shattered Equiano's childhood innocence on the day he and his sister were kidnapped while his parents and cousins were at work on the family's farm. He writes,

"Without giving us time to cry out, or make resistance, they stopped our mouths, tied our hands, and ran off with us into the nearest wood . . ."

Equiano was separated from his sister. He calls it the saddest day of his life. The young children had been very close and they had held tightly onto each other, but soon the kidnappers tore the sister away from him and carried her away. He grieved for days and refused to eat. His

captors had to force food into his mouth.

The experiences described in Equiano's narrative are not unlike those of other captives. Born a member of the Ibo (EE-boh) nation, he would never see his parents or other siblings again, nor sing the beautiful Ibo songs.

Broteer (Venture Smith)

Charles Johnson and Patricia Smith wrote about the capture of another African, Broteer, in their book, *Africans in America: America's Journey Through Slavery*:

"One of thousands of slaves brought to North America in the 1730s, the child [Broteer] was kidnapped and thrust into a world of violence he had not lived long enough to understand. He had been part of a place of perfect colors, a world that fit him, a place that seemed crafted for his comfort. The soft cocoon of family seemed forever. Then there was war, and that world was ripped open. The gaping maw revealed itself. And the child was swallowed."

When he arrived in America, Broteer was sold to Robertson Mumford of Rhode Island, who called him Venture. Broteer wrote in his memoir, the story of his life, that the white man named him Venture:

"on account of him having purchased me with his own private venture."

It was 1737 when Broteer, now called Venture Smith, entered North America as an enslaved person, one of the 41,000 who entered in that decade. He was barely eight years old.

Imagine the horror this child must have experienced after having been kidnapped in Guinea and placed in a filthy slave hold on a ship bound for America. The crossing of the Middle Passage must have been terrifying.

12



AS YOU READ

- How do slave narratives act as a type of living history book?
- How was Olaudah Equiano's childhood shattered?
- How did Broteer come to be called Venture Smith?
- How does the story of Charles Ball show that slaveholders did not honor African family relationships?
- Under what conditions did Josiah Henson and other enslaved Africans live?
- Why did Harriet Jacobs hide in an attic for seven years?
- Why was Sojourner Truth whipped at age 14?
- What caused Harriet Tubman to have dizzy spells in her adult years?

Chapter Outline

- Slave Narratives
- Olaudah Equiano
- Broteer (Venture Smith)
- Charles Ball
- Josiah Henson
- Harriet Jacobs
- Sojourner Truth
- Harriet Tubman

Vocabulary

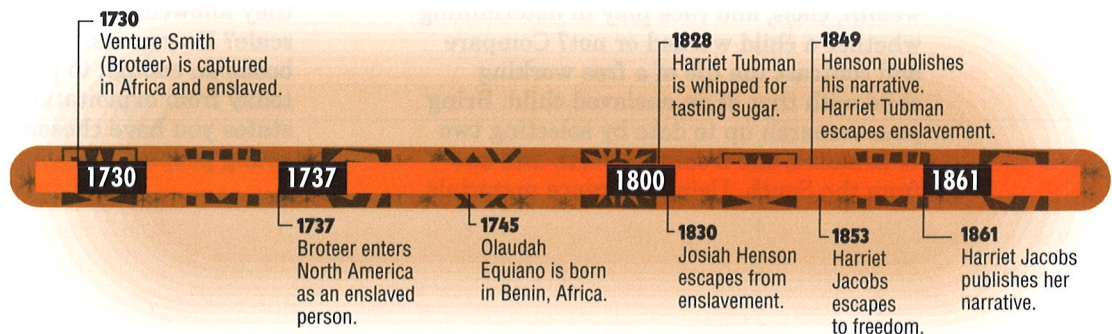
• memoirs • narrative • squalor • auction block

Slave Narratives

The Africans' stories of pain and suffering are numerous and graphic. They encompass all emotions and almost every kind of situation. Their **memoirs** recorded the ordinary and the extraordinary, the misery and the victories, and touch the human spirit with their simplicity and quiet dignity.

Olaudah Equiano

Olaudah Equiano (oh-LAH-dah eh-KEE-ah-noh) was born in Nigeria, Africa in 1745. He was captured and sold into enslavement when he was a very young boy. Over the years, beginning at age 11, he was sold to numerous slaveholders. He escaped a lifetime of enslavement when he succeeded in buying his freedom and eventually settled in England. His experiences still haunt those who read his **narrative**—the story of his life as



Divide the class into small groups and discuss cruel and unusual punishment at various times and places throughout history. Using information from your library and the Internet, contrast the treatment, sanctioned by law, that enslaved Africans received from cruel slaveholders with the treatment of

workers in Victorian England. Do you feel that such cruelty exists today in the form of extended jail time and capital punishment in the U.S.? How does the U.S. treatment of prisoners compare to other nations in the world? Give examples from your research.

Multiple Perspectives

Using information from this chapter and your research, write a short paragraph on each of the following modern leaders, describing what you think he would say about how the European Slave Trade changed the future of his country.

1. President of Ghana
2. President of U.S.A.
3. President of Haiti

In what ways do the views of these three leaders differ? How has each leader's background and the history of his nation shaped his viewpoint on the effects of enslavement?

CENTER YOUR WRITING

President James Madison said that an enslaved child became "gainful to his owner" at nine or ten years of age. Using reference materials and the Internet, research child labor laws and practices in the U.S. in the 17th century. What role did wealth, class, and race play in determining whether a child worked or not? Compare and contrast the life of a free working child with that of an enslaved child. Bring your research up to date by selecting two U. S. states, one from the North and one from the South. Using reference materials

and the Internet, find out what laws govern child labor today in each of the states you have chosen. Are there any major differences between the two states? At what age are children allowed to start work in either state? How many hours are they allowed to work? What about pay scale? Do you feel that the laws on the books do enough to protect young workers today from exploitation? Which of the states you have chosen better protects young people?