

Theme (Chapters VI-XI)

The importance of education to Douglass' emancipation is one of the overall themes of this narrative. Complete the following **Support Chart** by noting three *quotations* and three *incidents* from the story which support this theme.

Support Chart

Quotations that support the theme that education is important to getting free:

1. Quote: "I now understand what had been to me a most perplexing difficulty – to wit, the white man's power to enslave the black man. It was a grand achievement, and I prized it highly. From that moment, I understood the pathway from slavery to freedom. . . Though conscious of the difficulty of learning without a teacher, I set out with high hope, and a fixed purpose, at whatever cost of trouble, to learn how to read."

2. Quote:

3. Quote:

Incidents that support the theme that education is important to getting free:

1. Chapter _____

Incident: Douglass uses his writing skill to prepare several "protections" for each of the slaves who planned to escape with him to Baltimore.

2. Chapter _____

Incident:

3. Chapter _____

Incident:

Theme to Thesis

One technique for writing an essay about a theme in a work of literature is to restate the theme in the form of a thesis statement. Then, use quotations and incidents from the story to provide support for that thesis statement.

For example, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is, among other things, a "coming of age" story for Jem Finch. As such, one theme for the novel might be *Jem grows up*. To write an essay about the novel entitled "How Jem Came to Appreciate Atticus," a writer might first rewrite the theme as a thesis statement.

Thesis statement: One of the most important themes in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is that Jem matures in the course of the story and comes to understand his father.

Write a thesis statement for an essay entitled "There Can Be no Freedom Without Education." Support your thesis statement by providing incidents or comments from *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.