

LaGumbo

145



Name _____ Class Pd ____ Date __ / __ / __

My Folks Don't Want Talking 'Bout Slavery *Story is based on a 1930 interview with Patsy Mitchner, 84*

"Slavery was a bad thing, and freedom, of the kind we got, with nothing to live on, was bad. Two snakes full of poison. One pointed south and one pointed north. Both bit the nigger, and they was both bad"

What did the south bound snake represent? _____

What did the north bound snake represent? _____

Why were they both bad for the slave? _____

Stories are based on oral history interviews from the book titled: My Folks Don't Want Me to Talk 'Bout Slavery, Edited by Belinda Hurmence, 2002

LaGumbo

146



Name _____ Class Pd ____ Date __ / __ / __

My Folks Don't Want Talking 'Bout Slavery From the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

"I was born in Maryland. I have no knowledge of my age. Most slaves know as little of their ages as horses know of theirs, and it is the wish of most masters to keep their slaves ignorant of their birthdays. I do not remember to have ever met a slave who could tell you when his birthday was. Not having this information concerning my birthday was a source of unhappiness to me during childhood."

Why did Douglass not know his birthday? _____

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LaGumbo

147



Name _____ Class Pd ____ Date __ / __ / __

My Folks Don't Want Talking 'Bout Slavery From the Narrative of Jacob Stroyer

"When the family increased the children all slept together, both boys and girls, until one got married; then a part of another cabin was assigned to that one, but the rest would have to remain with their mother and father, as in childhood, unless they could get with some of their relatives or friends who had small families, or unless they were sold."

Why would your bed not be of real importance? _____

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