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English 1&2

Chapter 10: Almost Free

Key Events:

- Douglass lives with Mr. Covey, and while there he was introduced to difficult fieldwork which he hasn't done before and also experienced Covey's slave breaking.
- Covey tried to tie up Douglass, but Douglass fought back, and Covey hasn't laid a finger on him ever since.
- Douglass then goes to live with Mr. Freeland, who Douglass said was a better master than Covey, and he even credited him as the best master he had before he became his own master.
- Douglass and some other slaves create plans to escape, but didn't know how they would carry it out and considered all the risks. When they developed a plan, it was foiled and they were thrown in jail.
- Captain Auld comes to get Douglass from jail and sends him to live with his brother Hugh in Baltimore where he used to live. In Baltimore he ends up getting in another fight with white carpenters who no longer wanted to work with him.

“I was now getting, as I have said, one dollar and fifty cents per day. I contracted for it; I earned it; it was paid to me; it was rightfully my own; yet, upon each returning Saturday night, I was compelled to deliver every cent of that money to Master Hugh. And why? Not because he earned it,--not because he had any hand in earning it,--not because I owed it to him,--nor because he possessed the slightest shadow of a right to it; but solely because he had the power to compel me to give it up. The right of the grim-visaged pirate upon the high seas is exactly the same.”

Throughout this chapter, Douglass has several different masters who each gave him a certain amount of freedom. The problem with that was that at the end of the day, he was still a slave, no matter how much freedom he got. In this quote, Douglass was able to work and earn his own money, but because he was Auld's slave, he had to do as he was told. Auld had the

authority to take the money from him, and he couldn't do anything about it because he is just a mere slave.

The symbol I chose was a chain, because when someone is chained they can only move as far as the length of the chain. The length of the chain is like a limit of how free the slave was. Douglass sometimes was on a short chain, and sometimes he was on a long chain, but in the end he was still chained and wasn't completely free.