

# Resisting Slavery

## Group 1: Resisting Slavery

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANALYZING A PRIMARY SOURCE

Source the document

What is the document?

Who wrote it?

When was it written?

Close read the document

Circle key words or phrases

Summarize the document

In 2-3 sentences, how does this story demonstrate a type of resistance?

#### THE DOCUMENT

##### **Alec's Primer, as told by Daisy Turner (Alec's daughter)**

"The little missus had somehow obtained a primer.... She was teaching my father ABC, and rat, and things like that. And she told him...that up north in Vermont...the white people would let him be free.... The grandmother came down behind the milk house.... When she found her little granddaughter was teaching Father, and Father had the primer, she undertook to take the primer from Father.... When Father held on and started to fight with her to keep the little primer in his own hands, she struck with the whip across his cheek and cut Father's face.... He bled on the primer...but Father kept it."

**Summary:**



## Group 2: Resisting Slavery

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANALYZING A PRIMARY SOURCE

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In 2-3 sentences, how does this story demonstrate a type of resistance?

#### THE DOCUMENT

**Hiding Money, from Jane Beck, *Daisy Turner's Kin*, 75 (source: interview with John Bruce Turner, grandson)**

“Alec began stealing money every time he had the opportunity—penny by penny. He was planning to save enough to buy his freedom. To ensure its safety, he wrapped his money in sheepskin and placed it in a time that he buried in his mother’s garden, planting watermelon seeds over it. He would save the watermelons by burying them under a pile of hay, and then bring them out for Christmas, when watermelon season was long past.”

**Summary:**



## Group 3: Resisting Slavery

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANALYZING A PRIMARY SOURCE

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Summarize the document

In 2-3 sentences, how does this story demonstrate a type of resistance?

#### **THE DOCUMENT—“Bury Me in the Garden” lyrics**

“The spiritual ‘Bury Me in the Garden’ had a special meaning for Alec.” (Jane Beck, *Daisy Turner’s Kin*, 75)

Bury me in the garden, mother, mother mother.

Bury me in the garden, mother, mother mother.

Bury me in the garden, mother, mother mother.

Down by the sycamore tree.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtraEy7ulno>

Excerpt from *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*:

“I have often been utterly astonished, since I came to the north, to find persons who could speak of the singing, among slaves, as evidence of their contentment and happiness. It is impossible to conceive of a greater mistake. Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears. At least, such is my experience. I have often sung to drown my sorrow, but seldom to express my happiness. Crying for joy, and singing for joy, were alike uncommon to me while in the jaws of slavery.”

**Summary:**



## Group 4: Resisting Slavery

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANALYZING A PRIMARY SOURCE

Source the document

What is the document?

Who wrote it?

When was it written?

Close read the document

Circle key words or phrases

Summarize the document

In 2-3 sentences summarize the document; how does it demonstrate a type of resistance?

#### THE DOCUMENT

##### John Gouldin Affidavit, October 15, 1862

State of Virginia, Caroline County

This day personally appeared before me, M. S. Campbell a Justice of the Peace in and for the Count of Caroline and State of Virginia, John Gouldin... [who said] that he is the legal owner in his own right of the slaves, Daniel, Caroline, Wade, George, Steven, Henry, William, Mary, Rachell, Hewitt, Edmund, Walt, Sally, Alex, Andrew, Arthur, Humphrey, Ned Z, Ned Sale, Peter, Bob, Armistead, Loudon, Adaline, Eliza, Edward, Milly, & Francis mentioned in the foregoing statement, and the they are worth the sum of thirty three thousand and nine hundred dollars (\$33,900.00) that the said **slaves were induced away and abducted by the enemy and lost to him** the sd Gouldin; and that none of the aforesaid slaves been returned, but all of them have run and are now lost to him. Given under my hand this 15th day of October 1862. M. S. Campbell JP

**Summary:**



## Group 5: Resisting Slavery

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANALYZING A PRIMARY SOURCE

Source the document

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Who wrote it?

When was it written?

Close read the document

Circle key words or phrases

Summarize the document

How does this story demonstrate a type of resistance?

#### THE DOCUMENT

##### **Return to the Plantation, as told by Daisy (Jane Beck, *Daisy Turner's Kin*, 87)**

"After he got in the army, the white Yankee soldiers went back to burn the plantation.... Father said old Pusley had been left...overseeing his master's plantation....He was the main one that wanted to be beating him from the time that he'd been a little boy....Everything that Father done, he was ready to abuse....He just seemed to hate him. Old Pusley was upstairs, and he came to the window and wanted to know what they wanted. He said, 'Who is there?' And Father says, 'This is me. This is Alec...I'm going to shoot you.' And he said he shot him right through the stomach, like in his chest.... when he fell he hollered for water—give him some cold water, cold water. But he died right there.... He said that was the first shooting that he done....I've heard him tell that many and many a time."

**Summary:**

