Unchained Memories Part 3

Annotation Guide

What are 3 questions you have about this primary source?
1
2
3

2. Provide one example of ***Quoted Text by a Worthy Speaker (ETHOS)***

Quote:

Why is the speaker worthy of being trusted?

What is the author's purpose in using these facts?

3. Provide one example of ***Emotionally Evocative*** **Text (PATHOS)**

Quote

What feeling or idea does this quote support?

Why did the author include this quote?

4. What is the author's main purpose in writing this text? Explain your answer in a short reflection. What did you learn?
(To Inform/Persuade/Entertain)

Part 3
35:26

Narrator: The first enslaved people in America were reluctant to accept the religion of their masters but during the 19th century thousands of slaves began turning to Christianity. They infused this adopted religion with a new spirituality and with African traditions. Many owners hoped that Christianity might make their slaves more docile and encouraged them to convert.

Beverly Jones: On Sundays n**s had to sit and listen to the white man's sermon. Obey your master. Be a good servant. Can't tell you how many times I done heard that text preached on. They tell the slave that if he'd be good, work hard for his master that he would go to heaven and there he gonna live a life of ease. They never tell him he don't be free in heaven.

Wash Wilson: When the n**s go around singing steal away to Jesus that mean there is gonna be a religious meeting that night. The master didn't like them religious meetings a source naturally slips off at night down in the bottoms or somewheres. Sometimes us sing and pray all night.

Mary Reynolds: We pray for the end of tribulation and the end of beatings and for shoes that fit our feet we prayed that us n**s could have all we want to eat and special for fresh meat.

Some of the old ones say we have to bear all because that's all we can do. Some say they was glad to the time they dead because they'd rather rot in the ground have the beatings.

Samuel Jackson: Okay now all my life I've heard of the paddy rollers.

Director: Yeah.

Samuel Jackson: Now you have the paddle rollers. I know paddy rollers is the common term. My parents were from Georgia and they both said paddy rollers. In fact when they were really angry with white people they refer to him as paddies.

Director: Action.

Marshall Butler: Marshall Butler. Slave Narratives volume 4. Georgia.

I is Marshall Butler, 80 years old and was born on December 25th. I knows it was Christmas Day for I was a gift to my folks. Mammy was a Frank Collar n** and her man was of the tribe of being Butler some miles down the road. It were one of them trial marriages. They tried so hard to see each other but old Ben Butler said two passes a week were enough to see my mammy on the Collar plantation. And if a n** went out without a pass the paddy rollers would get him. The white folks were the paddy rollers. They used straps with the belt buckle fastener on. Oh yes sir, I got paddled. It happened this way. I left home one Thursday to see a girl on the Palmer plantation five miles away, some gal... No, no, no, I ain't get no pass. The boss was so busy but everything was fine until my return trip. I was two miles out three miles to go there come the paddy rollers. I was so scared, I couldn't move. They give me 30 licks and I ran the rest of the way home. Had belt buckles all over me. Ate my vittles off the porch railing. Some gal. It was worth that paddling to see their gal. Do it all over again to see Mary the next night. (sings) That's some gal.

Narrator: Slaves had an opportunity to go courting on Saturday nights on their own or on neighboring plantations.

Fannie Berry: Girls would put on a spare dress if they had one and men would put on a clean shirt. Girls always tried to fix up for partying even if they got nothing but a piece of ribbon to tie in their hair. Wasn't none of this sinful dancing where you partner off with man and woman squeezed up close to one another. Dance respectable, the slaves did. Shifting round from one partner to another and holdin one another out at arm's length.

Lucindy Jurdon: I remember that when I was courted, went to walking honey chestnuts. We'd string them and put them around our necks and smile at our fellas.

Mary Reynolds: My pa's name was Tom Vaughan and he was from the north born free man and lived and died free to the end of his days. He saw my mom at the Kilpatrick's place and our man was dead. He told Dr. Kilpatrick, my master, he'd buy my ma and her three children with all the money he had if he'd sell her. But Dr. Kilpatrick was never one to sell any but the old n**s who was past working in the fields and past the breeding times so my pa marries my mom and works the fields same as any other n**.

Narrator: Sometimes the wedding ceremonies were held in the slave cabins other times they were orchestrated by the owners.

Tempie Durham: I married Exter Durham. He belonged to master Snipes Durham who had the plantation in Orange County. Oh we had a big wedding. We was married on the front porch of the big house. I had a white dress, white shoes, gloves that came up to my elbow and Miss Betsy done made me a wedding veil out of a white net window curtain.

After uncle Edmonds said the last words over me and Exter, master George say come on Exter, you Tempie got to jump over the broom stick. You got to do that to see which one are you gonna be the boss of the household. I jumped first and you ought to see me. I sailed right over that broomstick same as a cricket but when Exter jumped, his feet was so big and clumsy that they got all tangled up in that broom and he fell headlong. After the wedding, we went down to the cabin miss Betsy done all dressed up but Exter couldn't stay no longer than that night because he belonged to Mars Snipes Durham and he had to go back home. He left the next day for his plantation. He come back every Saturday night stay till Sunday night and we had 11 children.

Narrator: Some owners respected slave marriages but the marriages had no legal standing and could be broken apart at the owners whim. Owners had their own reasons for pairing up certain slaves.

Rose Williams: After I'd been at his place about a year the master come to me and say you gonna live with Rufus in that cabin over yonder. Go fix it for living. I was about sixteen years old and had no learning and I just an ignorant child. I said to myself I'm not gonna live with that Rufus. Well the next day the master calls me and tells me, woman, I is paying big money for and I has done that cause I wants you to raise me children. You are a big portly gal. Rufus is a big portly man. I wants y'all to bring forth portly children. I has put you to live with Rufus for that purpose. Now if you don't want a whipping at the stake you do what I want. Oh I thinks about master buying me from the block, saving me from being separated from my folks and then I thinks about being whipped at the stake. What am I to do? So I decides to do as the master wish. So I yields.

Narrator: Many people interviewed for the slave narratives lived far from the plantations where they were born. As children a large number had been relocated to other parts of the country.

Sarah Frances: I was born in Kentucky somewhere near Louisville. I was brought to Missouri when I was six months old with my momma who was a slave owned by a man named Shaw who had allotted her to a man named Jimmy Graves. When a slave was allotted somebody made a down payment and gave a mortgage for the

rest, a chattel mortgage, a down payment. Times don't change, just the merchandise.
47:41
Narrator: As cotton became more and more profitable plantations spread to the deep south as well as states and territories to the west. Between 1800 and 1860 1 million slaves were forcibly transported to new locations. About a third of slave families were split apart and a fifth of the children was sold away from one or both parents. Mary Ann her child 7 years is smart active and intelligent.

Laura Clark: When I was about 6 or 7 years old I reckon it was Mr. Garrett bought ten of us children in North Carolina and sent two white men to fetch us back in wagons and he fetched old Julie Powell to look after us. They never bought my mammy so I I had to leave her behind. Mammy said to old Julie, take care of my baby child. That was me. And if I never see her no more, raise her for God. Then she fell off the wagon where it was all of us was sitting and just roll over on the ground just a-crying. But us was eating candy that they done give us to keep us quiet. I didn't have sense enough for to know what ailed mammy but I knows now. And I never seen her no more in this life. Her name was Rachel Powell.

Advertisement: Negros wanted. The undersigned wish to purchase a large number of Negroes for which they will pay the highest prices in cash.

Lord, child, I remember when I was a little boy about 10 years, speculators come through Newton with droves of slaves the poor critters nearly froze to death. Just run along on the ground all spewed up with ice. The speculators always rode on horses and drove the poor n**s. When they got cold they make them run until they are warm again. Miss, them slave look just like droves of turkeys running along in front of them horses.

There was a trailer yard in Virginia and one in New Orleans. Sometimes a thousand slaves were waiting to be sold.

Advertisement: Great sale of slaves. They will be offered for slaves for public auction. 3 bucks, strong able bodied. I wench, Sallie, aged 42. I buck, aged 52. Good kennel man.

When traders knew men were coming to buy they made the slaves all clean up grease their mouths with meat skins to look like they were feeding them plenty of meat.

Talk about something awful. You should have been there. The slave owners was shouting and selling children to one man and the mama and Pappy to another.

I was just a little thing taken away from my mammy and Pappy just when I need them most. I remember that I I was took up on a stand and a lot of people come around and felt my arms legs and chest and asked me a lot of questions.

I remember when they put him on the block to sell them the ones between 1830 always bring the most money. The auctioneer, he stand off at a distance and cry them off as they stand on the block. I can hear his voice as long as I live. If they put up a young n** woman the auctioneer would cry out and here's a young n** wench. How much am I offered for her? If the one they was going to sell was a young Negro man this is what he'd say, now gentlemen and fellow citizens, here is a big black buck Negro.

Advertiser: This is a big black buck Negro he is stout as a mule is good for all kind of work and he never give you any trouble. How much am I offered for him?
And then the sale would commence and the n** would be sold to the highest bidder.

Part III

Robert Falls: If I had my life to live over I would die fight rather than be a slave again. I want no man's yoke on my shoulders no more. Now my father, he was a fighter. He was as mean as a bear. He was so bad to fight and so troublesome he was sold four times to my knowing maybe a heap more times.

Narrator: Slaves who openly defied their masters received the harshest punishment but one act of resistance ran the greatest risk of all. Escape from slavery was extremely difficult and the penalty for being caught could be mutilation or death. In spite of such risks about fifty thousand slaves ran away each year but paddy rollers were well rewarded for capturing escaped slaves and very few runaways succeeded.

Cato Carter: There was a n** working in the field and kept jerking the mule. Master all got mad and they give me a gun and said Cato walk down kill that man. I say master Carter, please don't tell me that. I ain't never killed nobody and I don't want to.
He said, Cato you do what I tell you to do and he meant it. So I go out to the n** and I say you gotta leave this place this minute and I is too, because I supposed to kill you and I ain't. And Master Alt, he gonna kill me. So he dropped his reign and we

run and we crawled through the fence and we ran away. I hated to go but today I is an old man in my hands ain't staying with no blood.

Announcer: Six hundred dollar reward for a negro slave named Henry Marcel ...

Thomas Cole: I makes up my mind I was gonna run off the first chance I gets. When the meat supply run low master send me to go kill a deer or a wild hog and bring home some meat. He says not to go off the plantation too far. This is the chance I've been wantin. I crosses the river and goes north. I is going to free country where there ain't no slaves. I travels all that day and night up the river and follows the North Star. Several times I think the blood hounds are trailing me and I gets in a big hurry. I'm so tired I can hardly move. I'm hoping all the time I meets up with that Harriet Tubman woman. She the collared woman would take slaves to Canada.

Narrator: The Underground Railroad was an informal network of safe houses and assistance for runaway slaves.

Arnold: I didn't have no idea of ever getting mixed up in any sort of business like that until one special night. I had gone over to another plantation courting and an old woman told me she had a real pretty girl there who wanted to go across the river to the free state of Ohio and would I take her. Now I was scared and I backed out in a hurry but then I saw this girl and she was such a pretty little thing. Wasn’t long before I was listening to the old woman tell me when to take her and where to leave her on other side. Now I don't know how I ever rode that boat across that river because that current was so strong and I was trembling and I couldn't see a thing in the dark.

I felt that girl's eyes. It was a long time rowing there in the cold and worrying, but it was a short time because as soon as I did get on the other side, that big eyed girl would be gone. There in Ripley, Ohio. It was regular station for escaping slaves. It always meant freedom for slave if you could get to that big lighthouse. Pretty soon I saw a tall light. When I got up to it two men reached down and grabbed her. I started trembling all over again praying. And then one of the men took my arm. I just felt down inside of me that that the Lord had got ready for me.

You hungry boy? Is what he asked me. And if he hadn't been holding on to me I think I would have fell backward into the river. That was my first trip. Took me a long time to get over my scared feeling but it finally did and I soon found myself going back across the river with two and three people and sometimes a whole boatload. It

got so I used to make three in four trips a month. Now, I never saw my passengers it would have to be the black nights of the moon. And I would carry them. Didn't many of them stay around that part of Ohio. Too much danger that you would be walking along free one night feeling a hand over your mouth be back across the river and in slavery again in the morning. And nobody in the world ever got a chance to know as much misery as a slave that had escaped and been caught.

Mary Reynolds: Aunt Janey was just out of bed with a suckling baby one time and she ran away. She don't come to the house to nurse her baby so they misses her and old Solomon gets the n** hounds to take a trail. They gets near and she grabs a limb and tries to hoist herself in a tree but them dogs grab her and pull her down. The men hollers them on to her and the dogs tore her naked and ate the breast off her body. She got well lived to be an old woman. But another woman had to suck her baby and she ain't got no sign of breast no more.

Arnold Gragston: Finally I decided to take my freedom too. I had a wife by this time. One night we quietly slipped across. I could see the light but the harder I rowed the farther away it got. But finally I pulled up by the lighthouse and went on to my freedom just a few months before all the slaves got theirs. I didn't stay in Ripley though. I wasn't taking no chances. I went on to Detroit and I still lived there with most of 10 children 31 grandchildren. The bigger ones, they don't care much about hearing it now but the little ones never get tired of hearing how they grandpa brought emancipation to loads of slaves he could touch and feel but never see.

Actor: So to do three or four trips a month but that would be before the moon came back out. So when the moon went in, that's when they had to move.

Yeah. You know and sometimes not even that just touch because they had to be quiet too.

Actor: What a disconnect, what an amazing disconnect that we're here and our folks were saved by people that we'll never know who it was. Can’t actually say thank you.

Exactly, exactly.

Narrator: The outbreak of the Civil War opened the way for thousands more slaves to escape bondage, but in large areas of the south the freedom promised by the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 still depended on a Union victory.

Katie Rowe: Oh master, he'd get boiling mad when the Yankees scattered the Confederates all down through our country. Then he tell us to look you all aint gonna get free by them. When they get here they're gonna find you already free because I gonna line you up on the bank of the creek and free you with my shotgun. Anybody miss just one lick with the hoe or one step in a line and he gonna be free and talking to the devil long before he ever see a pair blue britches.

Narrator: Despite threats of slave owners many slaves fled their masters to fight for the north. 200 thousand slaves and former slaves enlisted as Union soldiers and sailors.

Benton barracks hospital St. Louis Missouri September 3rd 1864.

My children I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I have not forgot you and that I want to see you as bad as ever. On the 28th of the month 800 white and 800 black soldiers expects to start up the river. When they come expect to be will and expect to get you both in return. Be assured that I will have you if it costs me my life. Oh my dear children, how I do want to see you. Spottswood Rice.

William Moore: I'm in a persimmon tree eating persimmon and my sister Mary just come running. She said us n**s am free. I looked over to the house and seen the n** piling their little bunch of clothes and things outside the cabins. Then Nana come running with some other n** I climbed down at that tree and run to meet them. We gets up to the house and all the n**s standing there with the bundles on their heads and they all say where we going? We all cries and sings and prays and was so excited we didn't eat no supper.

Katie Rowe: That morning we all go to the cotton field early and after a while the old horn blows and we all stop and listen because it's the wrong time of the day for a horn. We start chopping again and there go the horn again. The negro n** hollar, hold up we better go on in. That our horn. So we line up and go in. Was sitting on the gallery in a high bottom chair was a man we never seen before. He had on a big broad black hat you know like the yankies wore. His hair was plumb gray and and so was his beard and to come down right down there down to his chest man say, you didn't know what day this is? And head man say, no we don't know.

Well this is the fourth day of June and this is 1865. And I want you all to remember the date because you always gonna remember the day. Today you is free just like I is and Mr. Saunders and your missus and all us white people. I come to tell you, he say, I wants to be sure you all understand because you don't have to get up and go by the

horn no more. You is your own bosses now. I wants to bless you and hope you always is happy and tell you you got all the right in life that any white people got. And then, he get on his horse and ride off. It was the fourth day of June and 1865 I begins to live begins to live begins to live.

Narrator: Even though the slaves had been emancipated their struggle to escape the oppression of slavery was just beginning but they were finally free to reunite with their families legalize their marriages and live and work for themselves.

Master Ingram had 350 slaves when the war was over but he didn't turn us loose till a year after surrender. He told us the government was gonna give us 40 acres of land and a pair of mules but we didn't get nothing.

I remember so well how the roads was full of folks walking and walking along when the n**s were free didn't know where they was going just going to see about something else somewhere else. Meet a body in the road and they asked where you going? Don't know. What you going to do? Don't know. And I begins to think and to know I never had to be a slave no more.