Twelve Years a Slave: Analyzing Slave Narratives



Final	Quiz	Assessment:	Answer	Key
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- 1. a.
- 2. c.
- 3. b
- 4. Wilson feels compelled to convince readers he's truthfully representing Northup's twelve years in enslavement because Wilson did not personally experience what he is writing about. The more someone else—an editor, co-writer, ghostwriter—is involved in the development of an autobiography, the more there are questions raised about its credibility. Narratives written by the former slave, himself or herself, have more credibility.
- 5. List two ways that slave narratives were produced, in addition to "as told to a ghostwriter," the manner in which *Twelve Years a Slave* was created:
- a. "Written by himself/herself," in which the former slave authored the narrative with little or no input from white editors.
- b. "Narrated by himself/herself," in which the former slave recited his experiences and views to an editor, who transcribed the oral narration and shaped it into a publishable text.