

## Assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the correct answer(s).

- 1) Henry “Box” Brown had himself shipped in a box from where to where?
  - A. Richmond, VA, to New York, NY
  - B. Richmond, VA, to Philadelphia, PA
  - C. Petersburg, VA, to Philadelphia, PA
  - D. Petersburg, VA, to New York, NY
- 2) What is the primary reason Henry “Box” Brown moved to England?
  - A. He had family there.
  - B. He was recruited there by anti-slavery activists and given a place to live in the United Kingdom.
  - C. He had a medical condition that could be treated there.
  - D. The fugitive slave law of 1850 made it possible for Brown’s master to “reclaim” him in the North, so he moved to England to avoid being captured and returned to his owner.
- 3) Which of the following are true about slave ads? (There can be more than one correct answer).  
Runaway slave ads usually provide:
  - A. A detailed description of the clothing worn by the fugitive slave.
  - B. An accurate portrait of the slave’s personality and demeanor.
  - C. Insight into the Master’s attitudes toward his/ her fugitive slave.
  - D. Detailed description of the body and facial features of the fugitive, such as birthmarks or deformities.
- 4) Which is a FALSE statement about Henry Box Brown’s slave narrative:
  - A. It was among the most sensational fugitive slave narratives.
  - B. It was one of 101 fugitive slave narratives published in the antebellum period.
  - C. It described fleeing on foot over hundreds of miles.
  - D. It embodies the four-point structure of fugitive slave narratives.
- 5) Read the three fictional diary entries below written from the perspective of a fugitive slave. Then describe which parts of the narrative conform to the four-part structure provided below.

**July 25** I am going to run off tonight. My master and most of the folks up at the big house ate something that didn’t sit right. Now they’re sick. I have made up my mind to take this chance while they are distracted by sickness to claim my freedom. I got some money saved from carpentry jobs I was hired out to do. I will head for the coast and find a ship that will take me to a northern port.

**July 26** I covered lots of territory last night; it’s ‘bout noon now and I’m resting in a thicket. I traveled along the river from near Goldsboro where the Parker plantation is. Master must have

figured out by now I'm gone. He probably knows I'm headed to Wilmington, the biggest port city in North Carolina. I wonder if they're out looking yet. With luck maybe they are still sick and can't get up a search party. I hope that is the case

**July 27** I traveled by foot through the woods last night. Still no sign of dogs or a search. In the early morning I met up with a man fishing on the river bank. He was black and he looked like he could be a slave. For a small sum he gave me some fish he cooked and some corn bread. He took me upriver several miles in his boat. He told me he had once been a slave until he bought his freedom from his master. I hadn't told him I was on the run, but he just knew by looking at me. He told me there was a camp of runaways up in the swamp. He called them a word I never heard: "maroons." He said I could spend the night with them and would be safe. I followed the free man's directions into the swamp. I walked for what seemed like hours deeper and deeper into the swamp. When I came upon the camp, the men grabbed their guns and axes and other tools and acted like they would kill me! They were the most raggedy humans I'd ever set eyes on. Their clothes were tattered and they looked like wild men. I said the words the free man told me: "Jeremiah sent me." Then they put down their weapons down and gave me food and drink. I spent last night with them. The leader told me, "we ain't got much but we got freedom; you're welcome to stay with us if you wish." I said "no thank you. I want to sail for the north from Wilmington so I need to find a friendly ship captain." They gave me the name and address of a man who could help me in Wilmington. They warned me that arrangements to get on a ship are tricky. They looked at me with worry in their eyes. Maybe I should have paid more attention to their concern. But I had had a taste of freedom and wanted more than a taste. I left that night for Wilmington, which was now very close.

**August 3** I guess it's a week ago now since I left the maroon camp. By morning I was on the main road outside Wilmington. A white man came alongside of me. I was terrified at first. But he was so friendly. He walked with me for a while and soon we were going on about fishing and stuff like that. He then told me in hushed tones that he was a Quaker and a friend of slaves trying to find passage North by sea. I was tired and hungry from walking most of the night and he offered food and a place to rest. His home was like a palace and I was never treated so kindly. I opened up to him, and told him where I came from back in Goldsboro. He told me he'd arrange my passage on a ship the next day and I believed him like a fool. He told me to meet him at the docks later that afternoon and when I got there at the appointed hour, Master Parker came out of the shadows with the head slave, Caesar. They tied me up with ropes and whipped me right then and there. Caesar picked my almost lifeless body up and threw it on the wagon like an animal carcass.

Back here at the plantation I got beat again. Master said I was a lesson for other slaves thinking about running. Thanks be to the Lord I survived both beatings and I can sit up now but still can't hardly move my body. But I can move my fingers enough to write! Sadie, an old friend here at the slave quarters got me some paper and a pencil. She kept it hidden as she's trying to learn her letters. I can't get over how stupid I was to trust that so-called abolitionist. I should have waited and got in touch with the man the maroons told me about! But I got too cocky and too eager to be free. That was a mistake to trust somebody just because they seemed like a friend. Come Christmas I will put into effect all the lessons I have learned because I intend to run away again when the commotion of the Advent season starts. This time I will head straight for the maroons' camp in the swamp. There I will wait a month or more until my master is off my scent and has given me up for gone. Then I will go to Wilmington to the person the maroons told me to find.

**Henry “Box” Brown’s Narrative: Creating Original Historical Fiction**

Master Parker may think he can beat the desire for liberty out of me, but he can’t. I aim to be free or die trying to be!

Explain what content from the above excerpts is part of each of the structural components.

- A. Precipitating Event:
- B. Path of Escape:
- C. Events along the Way:
- D. Result:

6) Using the “Typical Experiences of Runaway Slaves” and other examples of runaway slave experiences like Box Brown’s narrative, runaway slave ads, or other sources, write a series of diary entries (no less than one page nor more than two pages) from the perspective of a slave on the run. Be sure to use the four-point structure as an organizational framework for your writing and remember to be creative by adding descriptive detail to make it engaging and believable.