

12 Years A Slave – Study Guide Questions

- The following question must be answered and turned in by the end of Friday 10/31
 - This assignment is worth an entire quiz grade
 - All questions must be answered completely
1. Why is Washington a dangerous place for Solomon to visit?
 2. Did the two white circus men betray Solomon? What evidence leads you to believe this?
 3. Should they have rebelled on the boat?
 4. When the boat arrives at the dock, how does Solomon realize the brutality he is about to endure?
 5. Why won't the owner sell the female child?
 6. Why is the meeting of American Indians and slaves symbolic?
 7. What geographical-economic change in 1800s America provided Solomon with education that led to him earning a violin?
 8. Is master Ford a decent man? (explain)
 9. Do you agree with Eliza or Solomon?
 10. Why is Solomon saved?
 11. Why is Solomon left hanging?
 12. Why did the film's director choose to cut the sound and run the scene of Solomon hanging for so long?
 13. What does the slave owner use to justify beating slaves?
 14. What modern African-American culture is present in the film?
 15. An incentive is anything that changes your behavior. Stores provide customers with incentives in forms of coupons. They convince customers to purchase goods they would not normally purchase. Teachers and bosses provide incentives to employees and students in the form of rewards. For example, last year students at Carter that did not receive a referral and that were only missing two assignments received free days. There are negative incentives as well. Negative incentives are punishments. ...how are incentives used by the slave master?
 16. Who's worse the slave owner or his wife? (explain)
 17. When Solomon ran to get Patsy was the director foreshadowing something?
 18. How does Solomon plan his escape?
 19. Should Solomon have trusted the white worker? Why or why not?
 20. What does the burning of the letter symbolize?
 21. What argument does Bass make about the difference between laws and universal truths?
 22. Should Solomon have killed Patsy? Why or why not?
 23. What geographical factor explains Bass' disapproval of slavery?
 24. Our legal system led to Solomon *being sold into slavery* and *his freedom*. What are your thoughts on this contradiction?