

# Slavery in America

Introductory contextual lessons for the novel study  
of Copper Sun by Sharon Draper





# Goals and Objectives

## SOL Objectives

8.3 - Evaluate sources

8.6 d, h, and i - Analyze details for relevance and accuracy, make inferences and draw conclusions

8.7a through e - **POWER** writing process  
(Prewrite, organize, write, edit and revise)



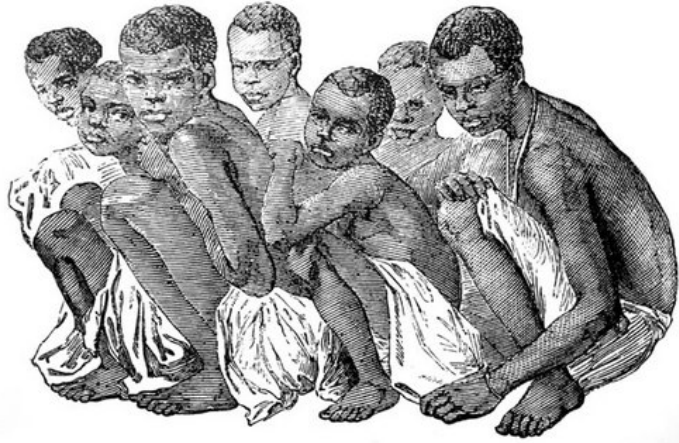
# Goals and Objectives (cont.)

## Essential Questions

What inferences can we make based on evidence so that our understanding of history is more complete and accurate?

## Enduring Understandings

There are many gaps in history. Through research of primary sources and understanding the context of history, we can get a more accurate picture of what was going on at that moment.



# Slavery in America

## Lesson Plans and Activities

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# Lesson Plan

## Do Nows:

Day One - Concept Map of slavery (create a bubble map of all the things that you associate with the concept of “slavery” - use the 5 Ws and H)

Day Two - Quickwrite: What did you learn yesterday that goes against what you’ve learned in the past about slavery?



# Lesson Plan - Day One

The four aspects that the learning stations will focus on will be: “The Environment on the Slave Ship”, “The Underground Railroad”, “The differing views of mainstream and abolitionists on slavery” (primary source documents) and one of Richmond’s marks on slave history.

The goals of these stations (and the follow up lessons) are to provide the historical and social context of Amari’s world within the novel Copper Sun , add to the student’s knowledge of the concept of slavery and connect this “historical” concept to the present.



# Station One

Students in groups of four will choose from a bag the following roles on the Slave ship “The Pearl”: Captive, Crew, Captain and Fate.

The students will read a choice the following scenarios and decide their fate:

Scenario #1 (Captive): “You are the last free “man” on deck during exercise time; everyone else has been locked down, but you have eluded the crewmen. Now you are hiding in a pile of rope; no one is looking your way. The first mate and second mate are standing near you, talking with their backs turned. The first mate has the keys dangling carelessly from his belt. He is showing the amulet bag from the Yoruba priest to the second mate, who has it in his hands. Both are intoxicated. You...

- a. Grab the keys, run into the hold and begin to unlock everyone
- b. Grab and run down to the priest with it, quickly he casts a spell on the captain and first mate.
- c. You do nothing - it would be too risky to try to act with two armed men present.



# Station One

The student that has the role of fate chooses one of the colored stones from the bag. Under the choices are the consequences for the actions.

Scenario #1 (Captive): “You are the last free “man” on deck during exercise time; everyone else has been locked down, but you have eluded the crewmen. Now you are hiding in a pile of rope; no one is looking your way. The first mate and second mate are standing near you, talking with their backs turned. The first mate has the keys dangling carelessly from his belt. He is showing the amulet bag from the Yoruba priest to the second mate, who has it in his hands. Both are intoxicated. You...

- a. Grab the keys, run into the hold and begin to unlock everyone
  - You are shot before you can unlock more than a few slaves
  - You raise a successful slave revolt, all crew and the Captain are killed but...you can sail a ship. It wanders and all die.
  - You raise a successful slave revolt, keep the mate alive, and sail back to Africa.



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- b. Grab and run down to the priest with it, quickly he casts a spell on the captain and first mate.
- You and the priest are clapped back in irons. But - the first mate and Captain begin to sicken and die; recognizing the power of the priest’s spell, the Captain frees you and the priest and puts you on a passing boat to Africa. He and the mate recover. The other slaves are sold in Charleston.
  - In a rage, the Captain kills the priest and hurls the amulet overboard. But he and the first mate dies and the slaves overpower the crew. They all return to Africa.
  - African magic doesn’t work on whites; you and the priest are punished.



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Scenario #1 (Captive): “You are the last free “man” on deck during exercise time; everyone else has been locked down, but you have eluded the crewmen. Now you are hiding in a pile of rope; no one is looking your way. The first mate and second mate are standing near you, talking with their backs turned. The first mate has the keys dangling carelessly from his belt. He is showing the amulet bag from the Yoruba priest to the second mate, who has it in his hands. Both are intoxicated. You...

- c. You do nothing - it would be too risky to try to act with two armed men present.
- In the next week, the first mate begins to sicken. He passes it to the Captain, who gets sick as well. With the weakened leadership, the slaves overpower the crew. They all return to Africa.
  - Nothing happens. (Nothing ventured, nothing gained)
  - The first mate throws the amulet overboard. The next day, the ship disappears in a terrible storm.



# Station Two

At the computer station, students will watch the selected segments of the documentary “The Underground Railroad: Escape from Slavery on United Streaming. The stations will be set up for you. At the end, students will complete a short SOL -formatted assessment (based on the quiz created by United Streaming) on the film.

URL of the quiz is as follows:

<http://www.unitedstreaming.com/search/assetDetail.cfm?guidAssetID=b2f6444b-8d30-49bf-b5bd-2ce44b9ffd36>



# Station Three

Students will read three accounts of the Mutiny on the ship *Amistad* from the *Richmond Enquirer*, the *New York Commercial Advertiser* and the *Colored American*. Each person in the group will read a separate article and complete the chart attached to compare and contrast the facts and opinions portrayed in the following articles. The first article is written by the “mainstream” newspaper of the day, the second is an article written for an abolitionist newspaper and the third newspaper is one of the few newspapers for African Americans.

The transcripts of the articles are as follows:

"Funds Appeal," *New York Commercial Advertiser*, 5 Sept. 1839.

**Appeal to the Friends of Liberty.** Thirty-eight fellow-men from Africa, after having been piratically kidnapped from their native land, transported across the seas, and subjected to atrocious cruelties, have been thrown upon our shores, and are now incarcerated in jail to await their trial for crimes alleged by their oppressors to have been committed by them. They are ignorant of our language, of the usages of civilized society, and the obligations of Christianity. Under these circumstances, several friends of human rights have met to consult upon the case of these unfortunate men, and have appointed the undersigned a committee to employ interpreters, able counsel, and take all the necessary means to secure the rights of the accused. It is intended to employ three legal gentlemen of distinguished abilities, and to incur other needful expenses. The poor prisoners being destitute of clothing, and several having scarcely a rag to cover them, immediate steps will be taken to provide what may be necessary. The undersigned, therefore, make this appeal to the friends of humanity to contribute for the above objects. Donations may be sent to either of the committee, who will acknowledge the same, and make a public report of all their disbursements.

SIMEON S. JOCELYN, 34 Wall street, JOSHUA LEAVITT, 143 Nassau street, .LEWIS TAPPAN, 122 Pearl street. New York, Sept. 4, 1839.



# Station Three

“Weird Ship,” *Richmond Enquirer*, 30 Aug. 1839.

A vessel was discovered off our coast on Wednesday under very mysterious circumstances. The pilot boat *La Fayette*, about ten o’clock on the morning of that day, while off the Woodlands, about twenty five miles from this city, fell in with a Baltimore built schooner, painted black, with a green bottom, and with the appearance of having been at sea about three months. She had two long topmasts, and on her stern were two gilt stars. The pilot boat *Blossom* was in company with her.

On approaching the vessel a number of negroes, twenty-five or thirty, were seen on deck. Some were almost or quite naked, some were wrapped in blankets, and one had on a white coat. The *Blossom* has previously attached a tow line to the schooner, but slipped it on perceiving an intention on the part of the blacks to haul up the boat to their vessel. The strange crew on board were armed with muskets and cutlasses. One of them had a belt of dollars round his waist; another, called the captain, had a gold watch. They could speak no English, but appeared to talk in the negro language.

The schooner of which they were in possession, appeared to the commander of the pilot boat *La Fayette*, and to the others who examined her, to be a slave ship. It was supposed that the prisoners had risen upon the captain and his assistants and captured her. Long grass was growing upon her bottom, and her sails were much torn, as if she had been driving about, at the mercy of the gale, with her sails set, and no one at the helm.



# Station Three

“Weird Ship,” *Richmond Enquirer*, 30 Aug. 1839. (cont.)

When the Blossom first fell in with the vessel it supplied her with a bag of bread and keg of water. One of the Blossom's men was on board for some time, and reports that the blacks were all furnished with knives. Two of them got into the yawl of the pilot boat, and there was great difficulty in making them get out again. The schooner had no small boat. On leaving her she stood to the eastward, and at sunset Wednesday evening, she was seen still standing in the same direction. -- N. Y. Ev. Post

It is due to the commanding officers at the Navy Yard at Brooklyn to say, that on the suggestion of the Collector, they dispatched as promptly as could be done, in search of the suspicious vessel on the coast, of which we yesterday gave an account, the steamer Fulton, and the schooner Wave, in the latter of which, were twenty five men under the temporary command of Lieutenant John R. Mitchell. We understand the Collector sent to the Collectors at New Haven, New London, Newport and Boston, requesting the cutters from those stations to be sent out by the way of Montauk Point, and that he also gave information to the Collectors at Philadelphia and Norfolk. We hope, therefore, that we shall know the certainty of this mysterious affair in a short time. The cutter in this harbor could not be sent out, as she was undergoing repairs, and many of her men are sick in the hospital. -- N. Y. Ev.. Post of Saturday.



# Station Three

September 7, 1839

THE COLORED AMERICAN  
New York, New York

## SCHOONER AMISTAD.

On the 28th of June last, the schooner Amistad sailed from Havana for Guanaja with dry goods, specie, and nearly 60 passengers consisting of Senor Jose Ruiz, Senor Pedro Montez, and a large number of captured Africans, natives of Congolo, who were only six weeks from the coast, four of which had been spent on the passage. Forty-nine of these Africans had been purchased as slaves by Ruez, and four from the same cargo by Montez. The crew consisted of the captain, his two slaves, and two white sailors.

Among the slaves purchased by Ruiz was one called in Spanish Joseph Cinquez, who is the son of an African chieftain. Cinquez is an extraordinary man. He is about twenty-six years of age 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, well made, and possessing superior strength and agility, which together with his fortitude, courage, and presence of mind, renders him a dangerous person to deprive of liberty. The Phrenological developments of his head are said to evince great sagacity, unshaken courage, and an ardent love of home and kindred.

On the fifth night after leaving Havana, the Africans headed by Cinquez rose, and murdered the captain and one of his slaves, (the two Spanish sailors escaping by one of boats, the other slave, a boy named Antonio, was saved to act as interpreter, as he speaks the Congolese, and Spanish languages.



# Station Three

September 7, 1839

THE COLORED AMERICAN

New York, New York

(cont.)

Joseph also attacked and wounded Montez, and would have killed him but for the interference of others. No attempt was made to harm Ruiz. Montez was the only one on board who understood the management of the vessel, as he had formerly been master of a ship.

The Africans knowing that they had come from where the Sun appeared to rise, compelled Montez to steer to Eastward, but he understood boxing about without making much headway, and the poor wretches knowing nothing of navigation were easily deluded: at night Montez would change his course to the North.

Joseph had entire command over his comrades, and insisted on the most implicit obedience to his orders, and any infringement of his rules was sure to meet with personal chastisement from his hands.

After wandering on the ocean for nearly two months, landing about thirty times, and speaking several vessels, on the 26th of August they were boarded by the boat of the U.S. Cutter Washington, when Ruiz immediately demanded protection from the officers.



# Station Three

September 7, 1839

THE COLORED AMERICAN

New York, New York

(cont.)

Lieuts. Porter and Meade of the *Washington*, then took possession of the schooner, and took her in tow. Joseph then went below, and tying considerable gold about his person leaped over board. While under the water he disengaged the doubloons, and came up about 100 yards from the vessel, having been under water at least 5 minutes. A boat was instantly sent in chase of him. When the boat neared him he would stop, but just as it came within reach he would drive down and come up behind her stern. He thus employed them about 40 minutes, when he gave himself up. He was then transferred to the *Washington*, when expressing so much anxiety and uneasiness to return to the schooner that his wish was at last granted. When on board the *Amistad* his comrades clustered around him, and testified the most extravagant joy at his return; they wept, and laughed, uttering screams of delight. Joseph alone was unmoved; he was calm and collected; he did not even smile. When the noise had subsided, he addressed them in Congolese as follows:

"Friends and Brothers - We would have returned but the sun was against us. I would not see you serve the white man, so induced you to help me kill the captain. I thought I should be killed - I expected it. It would have been better. You had better be killed than I've many moons in misery. I shall be hanged, I think, every day. But this does not pain me. I could die happy, if by dying I could save so many of my brothers from the bondage of the white man."



# Station Three

September 7, 1839

THE COLORED AMERICAN

New York, New York

(cont.)

The excitement was so high that the officers in command had Joseph taken again on board the *Washington*, where he was chained to prevent him from jumping overboard.

The next day (Wednesday) he signified by motions, that if they would take him on board the schooner again, he would show them a handkerchief full of doubloone. The artifice succeeded. His manacles were removed, and he was once more taken on board the schooner, where the congratulations from his comrades were even more wild and enthusiastic than before. Antonio was told to watch and listen to him. Instead of finding the doubloons, he again addressed his companions as follows

"My brothers, I am once more among you, having deceived the enemy of our race by saying I had doubloons. I came to tell you that you have only one chance for death, and none for liberty. I am sure you prefer death, as I do. You can by killing the white men now on board, and I will help you, make the people here kill you. It is better for you to do this, and then you will not only avert bondage yourselves, but prevent the entailment of unnumbered wrongs on your children. Come - come with me then -"



# Station Three

September 7, 1839

THE COLORED AMERICAN

New York, New York

(cont.)

Antonio made the signal, and the unsubdued chief was dragged from the hold, again manacled, and put on board the *Washington*. When there he made a thousand gestures and motions to be taken on deck, as if on some urgent and important errand, But when led up he only looks at the schooner, and remains with his eye fixed upon her until taken below again. He evinces no emotion, and had he lived in the days of Greece or Rome, his name would have been handed down to posterity as one who had practiced those most sublime of all virtues - disinterested patriotism and unshrinking courage. Now most probably he will be hanged as a murderer and pirate.

On Thursday the judicial investigation took place on board the U.S. cutter *Washington*. - His honor Andrew T. Judson, U.S. District Judge, on the bench, C.A. Ingersull, Esq., appearing for the U.S. District Attorney. The court was opened by the U.S. Marshall. The clerk then swore Don Pedro Montez, owner of part of the cargo and three of the slaves, and Don Jose Ruiz, also owner of part of the cargo, and forty-nine of the slaves.

They then lodged complaints against Joseph Cinquez, (the leader in the alleged offence,) and 48 others, or such of the above as might be alive at that time. It was ascertained that Joseph Cinquez, and 38 others were alive, and on the complaint an indictment was framed, charging them with murder and piracy on board the Spanish schooner *Amistad*.



# Station Three

September 7, 1839

THE COLORED AMERICAN

New York, New York

(cont.)

Joseph Cinquez, the leader, was brought into the cabin, manacled. He had a cord round his neck, to which a snuff-box was suspended. He wore a red flannel shirt, and duck pantaloons. He was calm and collected. Occasionally he smiled with a melancholy but determined expression, but he evinced no fear. At intervals he motioned with his hand that he expected to be hanged, and then for a moment would gaze intensely on his accusers.

Pedro Montez, Jose Ruiz, and the boy Antonio were examined, and the above facts were elicited.

The Court was in consultation some time after the examination, when they came to the following decision:

Joseph Cinquez, the leader, and 38 others, as named in the indictment, stand committed for trial before the next Circuit Court at Hartford, to be [held] on the 17th day of September next.

The three girls, and Antonio, the cabin boy, are ordered to give bonds in the sum of \$100 each, to appear before the said court, and give evidence in the aforesaid case, and for want of such bonds to be committed to the county jail in the city of New Haven. These persons were not indicted.

Lieut. R.W. Meade, Don Jose Ruiz, and Don Pedro Montez, are ordered to recognize in the sum of \$100 each, to appear and give evidence in said case, before the aforesaid court.



# Station Three

September 7, 1839

THE COLORED AMERICAN

New York, New York

(cont.)

The court now finally adjourned, having given an order to the U.S. Marshall to transport them to New Haven.



Original articles as they appeared in the *New York Commercial Advertiser*

been thrown upon our shores, and are now incarcerated in jail to await their trial for crimes alleged by their oppressors to have been committed by them. They are ignorant of our language, of the usages of civilized society, and the obligations of christianity. Under these circumstances, several friends of human rights have met to consult upon the case of these unfortunate men, and have appointed the undersigned a committee to employ interpreter, able counsel, and take all the necessary means to secure the rights of the accused. It is intended to employ three legal gentlemen of distinguished abilities, and to incur other needful expenses. The poor prisoners being destitute of clothing, and several having scarcely a rag to cover them, immediate steps will be taken to provide what may be necessary. The undersigned, therefore, make this appeal to the friends of humanity to contribute for the above objects. Donations may be sent to either of the Committee, who will acknowledge the same, and make a public report of all their disbursements.

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 JOSHUA LEAVITT, 143 Nassau street.  
 LEWIS TAPPAN, 122 Pearl street.

New York, Sept. 4, 1839.

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# Station Three

for Cotton and Sugar with FOUR TONS.

A vessel was discovered off our coast on Wednesday under very mysterious circumstances. The pilot boat La Fayette, about ten o'clock on the morning of that day, while off the Woodlands, about twenty five miles from this city, fell in with a Baltimore built schooner; painted black, with a green bottom, and with the appearance of having been at sea about three months. She had two long topmasts, and on her stern were two gilt stars. The pilot boat Blossom was in company with her.

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When the Blossom first fell in with the vessel it supplied her with a bag of bread and keg of water. One of the Blossom's men was on board for some time, and reports that the blacks were all furnished with knives. Two of them got into the yawl of the pilot boat, and there was great difficulty in making them get out again. The schooner had no small boat. On leaving her she stood to the eastward, and at sunset Wednesday evening, she was seen still standing in the same direction.—*N. Y. Ev. Post.*

It is due to the commanding officers at the Navy Yard at Brooklyn to say, that on the suggestion of the Collector, they dispatched as promptly as could be done, in search of the suspicious vessel on the coast, of which we yesterday gave an account, the steamer Fulton, and the schooner Wave, in the latter of which, were twenty five men, under the temporary command of Lieutenant John R. Mitchell. We understand the Collector sent to the Collectors at New Haven, New London, Newport and Boston, requesting the officers from those stations to be sent out by the way of Montauk Point, and that he also gave information to the Collectors at Philadelphia and Norfolk. We hope, therefore, that we shall know the certainty of this mysterious affair in a short time. The cutter in this harbor could not be sent out, as she was undergoing repairs, and many of her men are sick in the hospital.—*N. Y. Ev. Post of Saturday.*

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# Station Three

Directions: Using the chart below, describe how the newspapers listed in the left column portray the people, places or events listed in the top column. Include words or phrases that express opinions and/or convey facts in the appropriate column below.

Newspaper	African slaves/ mutineers	Cinquez	Spanish slave owners/ captives	The mutiny	Conditions aboard the ship when boarded by  U.S. seamen	Views expressed toward slavery
Richmond Enquirer						
New York Commercial Advertiser						
The Colored American						



# Station Four

Directions: As a group look at the two pictures below depicting slavery. With your partners, complete the SOAPStone activity to analyze these two pictures.

“Cotton  
Slavery”  
circa 1840



*Citation: The New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024. In Harnett T. Kane, Gone Are the Days, 1960, p. 212.*



# Station Four

## Directions:

As a group look at the two pictures below depicting slavery. With your group, complete the SOAPStone activity to analyze these two pictures.

"Slavery. A religious service comparison"  
(circa 1840)



One of the few joys left to black bondsmen was religion. Church services they attended with whites (above) differed considerably, however, from those they conducted when alone.



# Station Four

Directions: As a group look at the two pictures below depicting slavery. With your partners, complete the SOAPStone activity to analyze these two pictures.

## Analyzing through SOAPStone

What is the **Subject**? the general topic, content, ideas contained in the picture. (Example: Both pictures are dealing with Slavery)

What is the **Occasion**? the time and place of the piece, the situation that provoked the artist to draw this picture?

Who is the **Audience**? the group of readers to whom the piece is directed.

What is the **Purpose**? the reason behind the picture.

Who is the **Speaker**? the voice behind the picture, what do you know about him/her from drawing this picture?



# Day Two

## Background

It is known that slavery is one of the most damaging marks on American history. A people were held in bondage for more than 200 years, in which every state (or colony) was involved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the institution of slavery. Virginia played a significant role in the enslaving of persons of color from being an international trading center to the capital of the Confederacy. It was also the site of the first organized slave revolts in U.S. History. This slave revolt was orchestrated by Gabriel, a slave owned by Thomas H. Prosser and lived in Henrico County.

## Writing Prompt

The year is 1850. You are a reporter either the *Virginia Gazette* (mainstream newspaper, the *Liberator* (newspaper published by noted abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison or the *North Star* (newspaper published by Frederick Douglass). The article that you are writing is on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the slave revolt headed by Gabriel Prosser.

Using the packet of primary source documents and biographies of Gabriel, each group will compile a summary of the events of the foiled plot to free Virginia slaves.



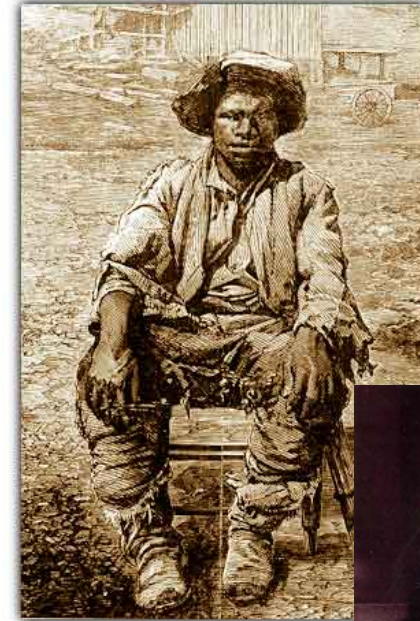
# Day Two

## Gabriel Prosser

\*The birth of Gabriel Prosser in 1776 is remembered on this date. He was a Black abolitionist.

A slave child, Gabriel was born to the family owned by Thomas Henry Prosser of the Brookfield Plantation in Henrico County, Virginia. Viewed as a "man of courage and intellect above his rank and life," Prosser was a imposing figure, dark-skinned, he stood 6 feet, 2 or 3 inches tall. He had lost two front teeth and his head was scarred. Unlike many slaves, he had been educated in his youth, and became a blacksmith, which gave him access to life beyond the plantation.

After the American Revolution, skilled slaves were often hired out; some slaves also got Sunday off. They could earn some money of their own, after paying a portion to their masters. However, white merchants controlled the flow of raw goods into and out of the city, and they could pressure the skilled slaves to lower their prices by simply choking off the stream of materials. The masters, meanwhile, still got their share off the top. This exploitive system was grounds for revolt among the slaves.



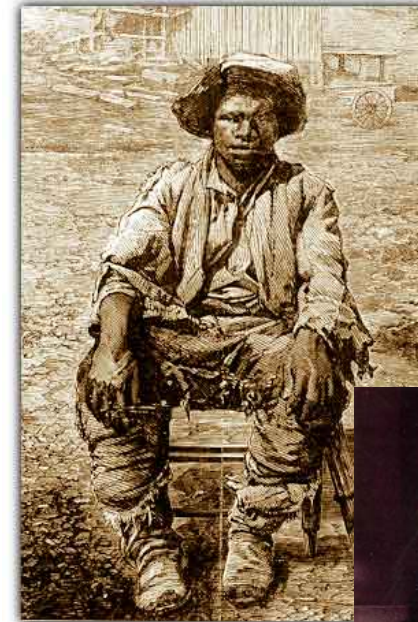


# Day Two

In 1800, Prosser and several other slaves plotted their own revolution, planning to marshal the forces of up to 10,000 blacks, who would take Richmond in an armed revolution, kill every white, and save the French, the Methodists, the Quakers and the poor. The plan called for a three-pronged assault on the city on an August night; it was put down just as it got started. Two slaves who lived on the Henrico plantation of Meadow Farm betrayed the plot to their owner, Mosby Sheppard. Sheppard immediately informed Governor Monroe, who called out the militia. On August 30th, torrential rains washed away roads and bridges, limiting the movement of the rebellious slaves.

About 30 slaves were captured and executed. Prosser, however, eluded the militia and escaped down the Chickahominy River. The governor put a \$300 reward on his head, and on September 24th, he was captured aboard a ship in Norfolk, Virginia. On October 10th, 1800 at Richmond's gallows at 15th and Broad streets, Gabriel Prosser was hanged. He was 24 years old. His bid for freedom only tightened the grip of slavery. In the aftermath of the insurrection, slave laws were toughened not only in Virginia but also in other states, North and South. In Virginia, abolition societies were driven underground and travel was restricted.

Free blacks that did not leave the state within six months risked re-enslavement. Prosser would herald the cause of independence for himself and for all slaves. It was a cause for which he was willing to take extreme measures and pay the ultimate price.



*Reference:*

*Africana The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience*

*Editors: Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry*

*Louis Gates Jr.*

*Copyright 1999*

*ISBN 0-465-0071-1*

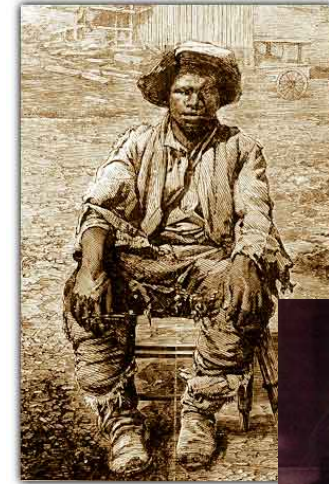


# Day Two

## Rebel's statement from Gabriel's Conspiracy

9th Month, 25th. I pursued my way to Richmond in the mail stage, through a beautiful country, but clouded and debased by Negro slavery. At the house here I breakfasted, which is called the Bowling-green, I was told that the owner had in his passession [sic] 200 slaves. In one field near the house, planted with tobacco, I counted nearly 20 women and children, employed in picking grubs from the plant. In the afternoon I passed by a field in which several poor slaves had lately been executed, on the charge of having an intention to rise against their masters. A lawyer who was present at their trials at Richmond, informed me that on one of them being asked, what he had to say to the court on his defence, he replied, in a manly tone of voice: "I have nothing more to offer than what General Washington would have had to offer, had he been taken by the British and put to trial by them. I have adventured my life in endeavouring to obtain the liberty of my countrymen, and am a willing sacrifice in their cause: and I beg, as a favour, that I may be immediately led to execution. I know that you have pre-determined to shed my blood, why then all this mockery of a trial?"

*Travels in some parts of North America in the years 1804, 1805, & 1806*, by Robert Sutcliff, published by B. & T. Kite, Philadelphia, 1812

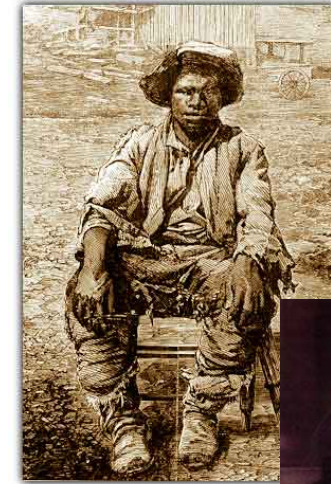




# Day Two

## Jefferson's letter to James Monroe

Where to stay the hand of the executioner is an important question. Those who have escaped from the immediate danger, must have feelings which would dispose them to extend the executions. Even here, where every thing has been perfectly tranquil, but where a familiarity with slavery, and a possibility of danger from that quarter prepare the general mind for some severities, there is a strong sentiment that there has been hanging enough. The other states & the world at large will forever condemn us if we indulge in a principle of revenge, or go one step beyond absolute necessity. They cannot lose sight of the rights of the two parties, & the object of the unsuccessful one. Our situation is indeed a difficult one: for I doubt whether these people can ever be permitted to go at large among us with safety. To relieve them and keep them in prison till the meeting of the legislature will encourage [sic] efforts for their release. Is there no fort & garrison of the state or of the Union, where they would be confined, & where the presence of the garrison would preclude all ideas of attempting a rescue. Surely the legislature would pass a law for their exportation, the proper measure on this & all similar occasions? I hazard these thoughts for your own consideration only, as I should be unwilling to be quoted in the case; you will doubtless hear the sentiments of other persons & places, and will thence be enabled to form a better judgement on the whole than any of us singly & in a solitary situation.



The Writings of Thomas Jefferson

Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford, Volume VII, 1795-1801, G.P. Putnam's Sons, The Knickerbocker Press 1896

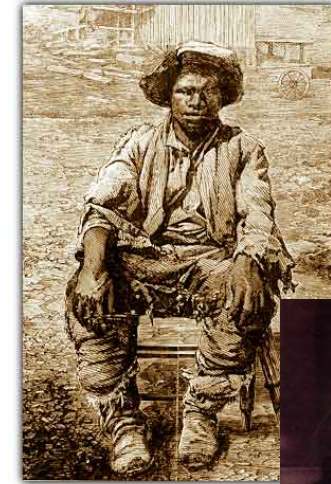


# Day Two

## CONFESSION OF SOLOMON

Communications made to the subscribers by Solomon, the property of Thomas H. Prosser, of Henrico, now under sentence of death for plotting an insurrection.

My brother Gabriel was the person who influenced me to join him and others in order that (as he said) we might conquer the white people and possess ourselves of their property. I enquired how we were to effect it. He said by falling upon them (the whites) in the dead of night, at which time they would be unguarded and unsuspecting. I then enquired who was at the head of the plan. He said Jack, alias Jack Bowler. I asked him if Jack Bowler knew anything about carrying on war. He replied he did not. I then enquired who he was going to employ. He said a man from Caroline who was at the siege of Yorktown, and who was to meet him (Gabriel) at the Brook and to proceed on to Richmond, take, and then fortify it. This man from Caroline was to be commander and manager the first day, and then, after exercising the soldiers, the command was to be resigned to Gabriel- If Richmond was taken without the loss of many men they were to continue there some time, but if they sustained any considerable loss they were to bend their course for Hanover Town or York, they were not decided to which, and continue at that place as long as they found they were able to defend it, but in the event of a defeat or loss at those places they were to endeavor to form a junction with some negroes which, they had understood from Mr. Gregory's overseer, were in rebellion in some quarter of the country. This information which they had gotten from the overseer, made Gabriel anxious, upon which he applied to me to make scythe-swords, which I did to the number of twelve. Every Sunday he came to Richmond to provide ammunition and to find where the military stores were deposited. Gabriel informed me, in case of success that they intended to subdue the whole of the country where slavery was permitted, but no further.





## CONFESSION OF SOLOMON (cont.)

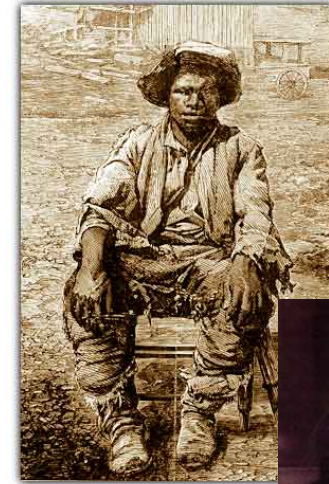
The first places Gabriel intended to attack in Richmond were, the Capitol, the Magazine, the Penitentiary, the Governor's house and his person. The inhabitants were to be massacred, save those who begged for quarter and agreed to serve as soldiers with them. The reason why the insurrection was to be made at this particular time was, the discharge of the number of soldiers, one or two months ago, which induced Gabriel to believe the plan would be more easily executed.

Given under our hands this '5th day of September, 1800.

GERVAS STORRS,  
JOSEPH SELDEN.

*H. W. Flounoy, ed., Calender of Virginia State Papers and Other Manuscripts from January 1, 1799, to December 31, 1807; preserved in the Capitol at Richmond, 11 volumes (Richmond, 1890)*

# Day Two





# Day Two

Directions: Use the following GIST summary sheet to summarize each article and biography to compile facts and information for your assignment.

**Who** is this article about?

**What** is the topic of the article?

**When** was this article written?

**Where** was this article printed?

**Why** was this article written? (purpose)

**How** is this information useful or important?

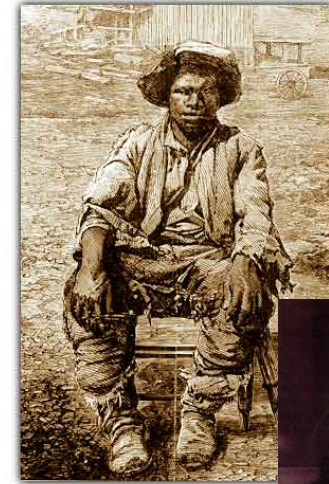
**GIST Summary** (20 word summary using the information above)

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# Day Two

## Assessment

Using the **POWER** writing process, write a brief biography of Gabriel and an account of the plot for your choice of newspapers – given their slant on the news of the day.

## Rubric for the Prosser Bio/Article

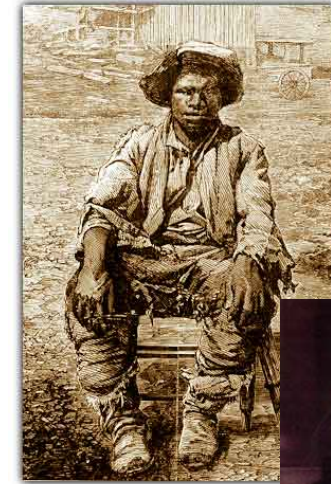
Composing/Format 20 points

Written Expression 20 points

Usage and Mechanics 20 points

General Appearance/Creativity 20 points

Met Deadline 20 points



Curriculum created by  
Korri M. Garrett