

Final Assessment

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Class: _____

1) Identify statements that are true about Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's life.

- 1) She was born a slave.
- 2) She wrote in many different literary genres.
- 3) She was a famous public speaker.
- 4) She was an advocate for black literacy.

2) Who were the "Yankee Teachers"?

- 1) Black women from the North who came to the South after the Civil War to teach former slaves to read and write.
- 2) Predominantly white, but also some black women from the North who came to the South after the Civil War to teach former slaves to read and write.
- 3) Teachers from the North who taught blacks in the North to read and write after the Civil War.
- 4) None of the above.

3) Identify true statements about enslaved literacy:

- 1) Slaves were encouraged by their Masters to be literate.
- 2) Slaves often tried to teach themselves how to read and write.
- 3) It was against the law to teach slaves to read and write in the South.
- 4) Slaves saw literacy as a major key to attaining freedom.

4) Why does Frances Ellen Watkins Harper use the character of Aunt Chloe in the poem, "Learning to Read?" Identify all statements that are true.

- 1) As a former slave, the character of Aunt Chloe personalizes and "brings to life" the value of reading and writing to blacks before and after Emancipation.
- 2) Aunt Chloe exemplifies that it is possible learn to read later in life.

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper’s “Learning to Read”

3) Aunt Chloe’s experience shows how literacy leads to self-empowerment and economic empowerment, through home ownership.

4) All of the above.

5) Enslaved people viewed literacy as a skill that could lead them to freedom and greater opportunities. Think about ways that you are literate such as traditional literacy (reading and writing), as well as other literacies you may have such as financial literacy, cross-cultural literacy, or technological literacy. Explain how one of your “literacies” benefits you now and how you think it may benefit you in the future?

6) Refer to the full text of “Learning to Read” on the next page. In the right-hand column of the table below, explain in your own words what each verse means.

B. Masters’ actions vs. Slaves’ actions re: literacy. Summarize the meanings both direct and implied.

3) Our masters always tried to hide Book learning from our eyes;	
4) Knowledge didn’t agree with slavery, T’would make us all too wise.	
5) But some of us would try to steal A little from the book,	
6) And put the words together, And learn by hook or crook.	Note: By “Hook or crook” means by any means necessary.
7) I remember Uncle Caldwell Who took pot-liquor fat	
8) And greased the pages of his book, And hid it in his hat.	
9) And had his Master ever seen The leaves upon his head,	Note: “leaves” refers to pages
10) He’d have thought them greasy papers, But nothing to be read.	
11) And there was Mr. Turner’s Ben, Who heard the children spell,	
12) And picked the words right up by heart, And learned to read ‘em well.	

After describing in your own words what each verse means, explain why you think Frances Ellen Watkins Harper uses the character of Aunt Chloe to discuss the issue of learning to read during slavery and in the period of Reconstruction, after slavery was abolished?