From the book *A Narrative on the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, Douglass says:

“I have often been utterly astonished, since I came to the north, to find persons who could speak of the singing, among slaves, as evidence of their contentment and happiness. It is impossible to conceive of a greater mistake. Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears. At least, such is my experience. I have often sung to drown my sorrow, but seldom to express my happiness. Crying for joy, and singing for joy, were alike uncommon to me while in the jaws of slavery. The singing of a man cast away upon a desolate island might be as appropriately considered as evidence of contentment and happiness, as the singing of a slave; the songs of the one and of the other are prompted by the same emotion. (2.9)”

Do you think Legree understands how the slaves think about the songs? Why or why not?

What is the difference between the song the slaves try to sing and the ones they’re forced to sing?

Review the song *Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Had*.

Why do you think slaves sang this song?

Review the song *Roll Jordan Roll*. Why would slaves sing this song?

“The slave is always a tyrant, if he can get the chance to be one.”

Is this true of Tom? Why or why not?

Can it be said that George or Eliza were tyrants? Why or why not?