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### Frederick Douglass Essay

Frederick Douglass mentions at the beginning of his narrative that he doesn't know his parents, and even says he doesn't feel close with his actual biological siblings which lived in the property of colonel Lloyd in the early years of his life. Because of this, the people he tends to feel the strongest kinship to throughout his life are most often either fellow slaves and other people that are found in a similar situation and condition, and who he works together with to secure his freedom.

This type of relationship can be seen especially in the passages describing the time when Douglass lived in the homestead of William Freeland, where he secretly taught his fellow slaves to read and where he first attempted to escape with several of them. Douglass mentions these enslaved men and women of various ages were like a family to each other, and that teaching the Sundays during which they were gathering in his school were some of the most fond memories of his.

The depth and strength of this relationship can also be backed up by the fear of being separated from each other, and the pain it caused him when the other slaves owned by Freeman got separated from him after their attempt at escaping was uncovered and curbed. Douglass already experienced the pain of separating when he was young and the possessions of colonel Lloyd, including his slaves, were being sold and their relationships disrupted. He says in the passages in which they contemplate the plan to escape that their greatest fear, in addition to the possibility of them being uncovered and caught, is that they will be forever separated from each other. He says during his passage about the Sunday school he held that

the slaves felt like one, made all decisions after consulting them together, and that he believed that they would die for each other. What he also expressed deep regrets about was to think about how his former fellow slaves are still unfree under slavery when he already won his freedom, wishing he could do the same for them.

It can be concluded from Douglass's writing that much of the reason why they feel this kind of strong kinship can be attributed to their shared condition of slaves, as well as their common desire to defy this position by learning to read, which was prohibited to them, and support each other in their position. This is also confirmed by Douglass himself, saying that their shared hardships under slavery linked them as much as their characters. It could therefore be concluded that the shared condition under slavery brought Frederick Douglass and other slaves together in defiance of their master's oppression. Because they all found themselves in the same position and neither of them had anyone else who they would turn to, the Sunday school Douglass created served not only as an institution where the enslaved people could come to defy the slaveholders by learning to read, but also became the only place where they could find understanding and support in face of their unfree condition.

Works Cited

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