

# PAIRED TEXTS

## Frederick Douglass

People who were enslaved were not allowed to learn to read and write, but Frederick Douglass did. Enslaved people were not supposed to leave their plantation either, but Frederick Douglass escaped. And although some people escaped slavery on the Underground Railroad, Frederick Douglass fled to his freedom on a real train.

When Frederick was a boy, he belonged to the Auld family. Mrs. Auld taught the alphabet and how to read a few words. When Mr. Auld found out, he was told her to stop immediately. That didn't stop Frederick. One of his duties was to run errands. He would do them quickly, then, he would find the poor white boy in the neighborhood who would teach him the reading lessons they had learned in exchange for some bread. When Frederick was a teenager, he taught people to read and write, too.

Frederick had a few owners, and he tried to escape all of them. He met and fell in love with a free Black woman named Anna Murray. He wanted to be free, and so he carried out a great plan. He boarded a ship in a sailor's uniform with identification papers, which he borrowed from a seaman. He took a steamboat to Philadelphia, then continued on to New York City. His escape took less than 24 hours. He and Anna were married and eventually had five children.

Frederick Douglass became a great speaker by becoming a member of the abolitionist movement and even spoke about giving freedom to enslaved people. He also became a published author of three books which told the story of an enslaved person's life. He also published his own newspaper.

Selection from

## NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS AN AMERICAN SLAVE, WRITTEN BY HIMSELF. 1845

From this time I was most narrowly watched. If I was in a separate room any considerable length of time, I was sure to be suspected of having a book, and was at once called to give an account of myself. All this, however, was too late. The first step had been taken. Mistress, in teaching me the alphabet, had given me the book, and prevented me from taking the ell.

The plan which I adopted, and making friends of all the little white boys in the neighborhood, I converted into teachers. With their help, I finally succeeded in learning to read. I carried a book with me, and by going one by one, I used also to carry books to which I was always welcome. I taught poor white children in our neighborhood, who, in return, would give me something to eat.

I am strongly tempted to give a testimonial of the gratitude and affection which I feel towards the white children who would injure me, but it might embarrass them, and I will not do it. I will only say that I have taught slaves to read in this Christian country.

They lived on Philpot Street, very near Durgin's ship-yard. I used to talk this matter of slavery over with them. I would sometimes say to them, I wished I could be as free as they would be when they got to be men. "You will be free as soon as you are twenty-one, but I am a slave for life! Have not I as good a right to be free as you have?" These words used to trouble them; they would express for me the liveliest sympathy, and with the hope that something would occur by which I might be free.

We have been working through these paired texts and the kids love reading and learning about things they weren't aware of. The questions bring up great discussions and sometimes even research opportunities too! Great resource!

Jennifer W., 4th Grade Teacher

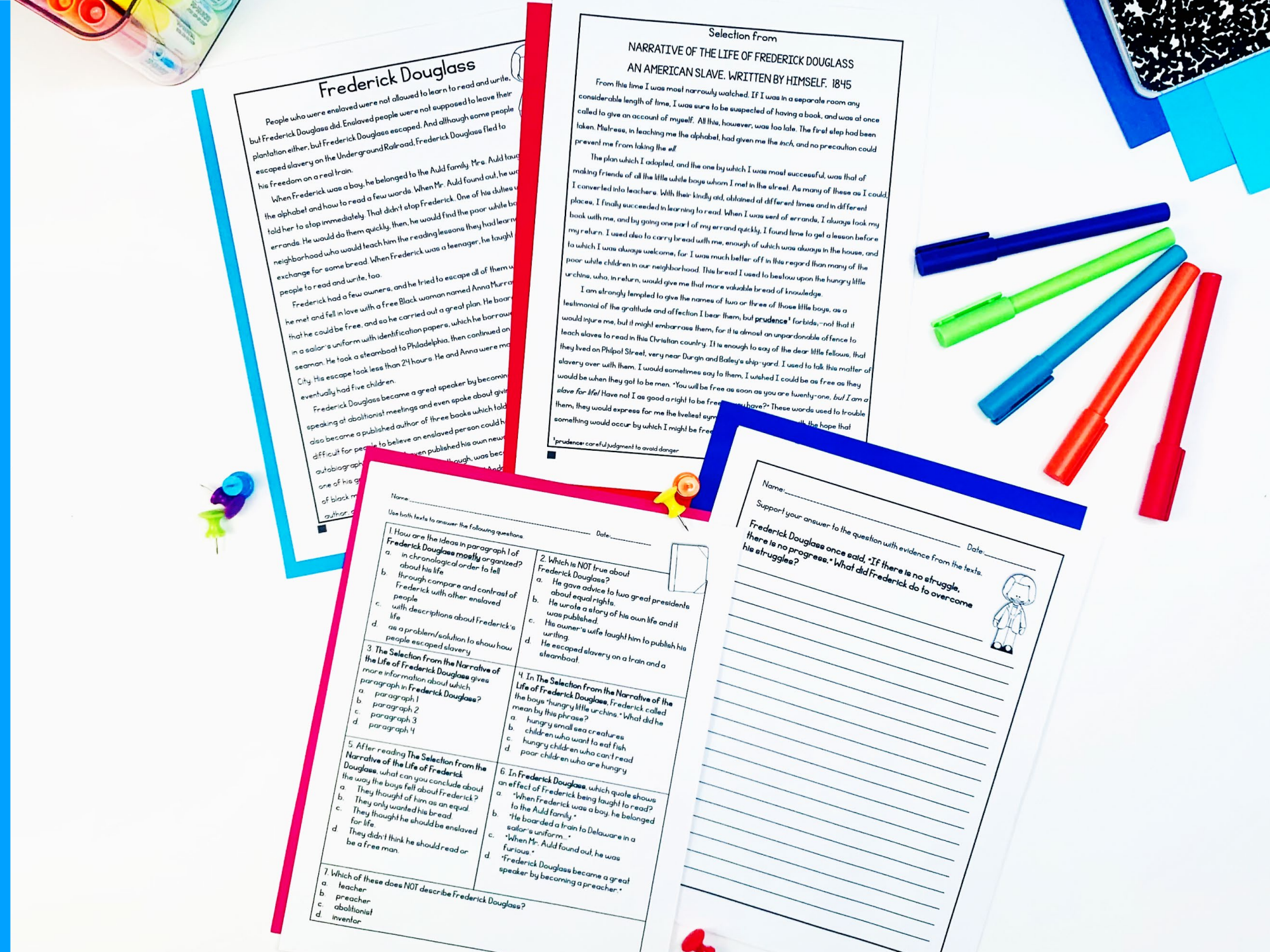


# WAYS TO USE THIS RESOURCE:

whole group or small  
group modeling

read and annotate the  
texts together, then  
provide the questions  
for comprehension  
check, allowing  
students to use the  
annotated passages

completely independent  
practice for students  
reading above 4th-5th  
grade level





# FOR EVERY PAIR:

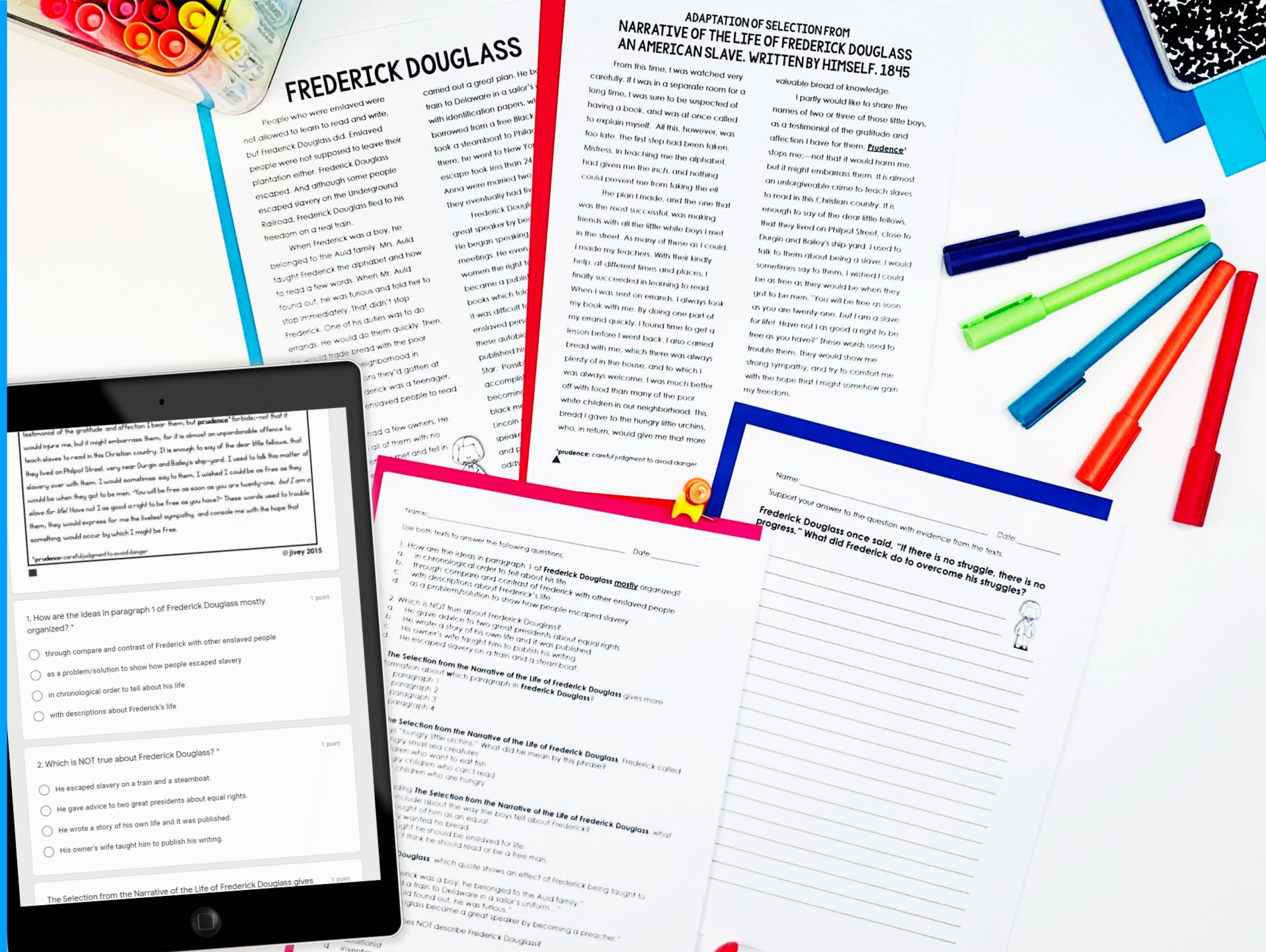
two levels of each passage for differentiation

digital (self-grading) and printable formats

seven multiple choice questions (each question assessing a different standard)

one constructed response essay prompt

two styles of articles:  
2-column and full page



# TWO LEVELS PROVIDED OF EVERY PASSAGE

on grade level for 4-5

AND

on grade level for 6-7

discreet symbols on the  
passages to denote the  
level of passage

the same questions can  
be answered no matter  
the level given







# BUY THE BUNDLE & SAVE!

The bundle includes 39 pairs of passages and their corresponding questions -- more than a year at your fingertips!

I ended up buying this bundle because each of your paired texts resources are so wonderful! I wanted them all! A Must Have ELA resource!

check  
it out!

