

“[Mr. Severe’s] presence made it both the field of blood and of blasphemy. From the rising till the going down of the sun, he was cursing, raving, cutting, and slashing among the slaves of the field, in the most frightful manner.

His career was short. He died very soon after I went to Colonel Lloyd’s; and he died as he lived, uttering, with his dying groans, bitter curses and horrid oaths. His death was regarded by the slaves as the result of a merciful providence” (Douglass Chapter 2).

Watch for possible alliteration, word choice (denotation and connotation), what rhetorical strategies is he using (ethos logos pathos kairos) pay attention to what Douglass is emphasizing and why.

Here’s an example:

Alliteration emphasizes the violence of the scene. Further, connecting “blood” and “blasphemy” to Mr. Severe’s actions positions him in an immorally religious realm. This connection appeals to his Christian audience, aiming to convince them not only of slavery’s horrors but also of its sinful nature.

Word choice connotes not a man acting humanely but a maniac who has lost his senses and morality. This connotative diction aids in illustrating slavery’s corrupting influence on human beings and its ability to transform them into violent, sinful creatures.

Douglass ends with an emphasis on the slave’s helpless and precarious position – only “merciful providence,” or God’s intervention, could save them from the wrath of a man possessed by the power the slave system offered him. Further, this corruption is absolute, as it lasts until the man’s “dying groans.

In the space below, write a SOAPSTone for the narrative thus far (must include all parts):

Practice the Pizza Model of intros for one of the following ‘easy’ prompts:

Should students be allowed to have technology in the classroom?

Has technology had a positive or negative impact on our society?

What are the benefits of a longer summer vacation (in the US compared to other countries)?

Is the music of your parents’ generation really better than music today?

Look over theme, ethos, logos, pathos, kairos, denotation, and connotation.