Name: Date: Block:

**Making Generalizations**

Directions: Spend 10 minutes reading the passage and completing the comprehension question. You should be annotating and dissecting the text intensely! Do not begin the back page. As you read, consider the following prompt:

*After reading the excerpt of “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl” by Harriet Jacobs, analyze how Jacobs uses the events of January 1st to characterize slave masters. In your analysis, consider what the consequences of hiring day are on every slave. Develop your response in several well-developed paragraphs using evidence from the story to support your analysis.*

**Jacobs, Harriet. Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl. New York: Barnes and Noble Classics, 2005. From Ch. 3:**

Dr. Flint owned a fine residence in town, several farms, and about fifty slaves, besides hiring a number by the year.

Hiring-day at the south takes place on the 1st of January. On the 2d, the slaves are expected to go to their new masters. On a farm, they work until the corn and cotton are laid. They then have two holidays. Some masters give them a good dinner under the trees. This over, they work until Christmas eve. If no heavy charges are meantime brought against them, they are given four or five holidays, whichever the master or overseer may think proper. Then comes New Year's eve; and they gather together their little alls, or more properly speaking, their little nothings, and wait anxiously for the dawning of day. At the appointed hour the grounds are thronged with men, women, and children, waiting, like criminals, to hear their doom pronounced. The slave is sure to know who is the most humane, or cruel master, within forty miles of him.

        It is easy to find out, on that day, who clothes and feeds his slaves well; for he is surrounded by a crowd, begging, "Please, massa, hire me this year. I will work *very* hard, massa."

        If a slave is unwilling to go with his new master, he is whipped, or locked up in jail, until he consents to go, and promises not to run away during the year.

Should he chance to change his mind, thinking it justifiable to violate an extorted promise, woe unto him if he is caught! The whip is used till the blood flows at his feet; and his stiffened limbs are put in chains, to be dragged in the field for days and days!

        If he lives until the next year, perhaps the same man will hire him again, without even giving him an opportunity of going to the hiring-ground. After those for hire are disposed of, those for sale are called up.

        O, you happy free women, contrast *your* New Year's day with that of the poor bond-woman! With you it is a pleasant season, and the light of the day is blessed. Friendly wishes meet you everywhere, and gifts are showered upon you. Even hearts that have been estranged from you soften at this season, and lips that have been silent echo back, "I wish you a happy New Year." Children bring their little offerings, and raise their rosy lips for a caress. They are your own, and no hand but that of death can take them from you.

Comprehension Question:

1. Make a generalized statement about the process of hiring day.

GEN Notes:

In order to make generalizations, one must…

1. Choose an individual or idea to focus on
2. Record observations DIRECTLY FROM THE TEXT.
3. Consider EACH observation, what you already know about that character or idea who has similar traits
4. ADD IT UP: What conclusion can you draw from these observations about the character or idea that is NOT EXPLICITLY STATED IN THE TEXT.

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| Practice #1 | |
| Individual/Idea | Slave Master |
| Observation from text (word-for-word) | If a slave is unwilling to go with his new master, he is whipped, or locked up in jail, until he consents to go, and promises not to run away during the year. |
| Inferred qualities or characteristics |  |
| Conclusion/ Generalization |  |

The passage says            \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 which usually means       \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_     , so\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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| Practice #2 | |
| Individual/Idea | Slave Master |
| Observation from text (word-for-word) |  |
| Inferred qualities or characteristics |  |
| Conclusion/ Generalization |  |

The passage says            \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 which usually means       \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_     , so\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.