

Enslaved People's Experiences

Phillis Wheatley

1. What does the picture tell you about Phillis Wheatley? What are 3 or 4 words you would use to characterize her appearance?
2. What does the first line of the poem mean to you? To what "Pagan land" is she referring? Why do you think she says mercy brought her from that land?
3. What do you think the line, "Their colour is a diabolic die" means? Who are the people who say this?
4. What do you think the point of the poem is? What might have encouraged her to write this poem?

Crispus Attucks

Consider the difference between the two paintings on the back of the next page.

The Bloody Massacre Painting V. Boston Massacre Painting

Part Crispus Attucks Plays	Part Crispus Attucks Plays
Story told by the painting about US History	Story told by the painting about US History

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Renaming

1. What do names symbolize & why are they important to a person's identity?
2. Why would masters rename slaves?
3. How did enslaved people rebel against their masters' forced names?
4. Why would rebellion have been risky?
5. Why might it have been worth the risk?

Runaway Ads

1. How are enslaved people described in these ads?
2. In what ways do the ads demonstrate that slaves were treated as property?
3. What does the advertisement for a "found" slave tell us about the values of the society at the time?
4. What do the descriptions of the slaves tell us about the slaves' masters?