Chapter 1

* Douglass, like other slaves, don’t know his date of birth
* Slaves are dehumanized by their masters keeping basic human information, such as birthdays and parents, away from them
* Douglass, like other slaves, had his master as his father
  + Those who have their master as their father face harsher lives, due to opposition by the master’s wife regarding cheating
* Douglass, like other slaves, was separated from his mother at a very young age
  + Douglass only met his mother a few times before she died. She visits by sneaking to his place in the middle of the night
* Masters beat slaves extremely harshly for extremely insignificant difference from expectations

Chapter 2

* A master may own several plantations and have an overseer on each, answering to the home plantation
* Slaves are given a monthly allowance of food and clothes
* Douglass lived on a plantation owned by Colonel Lloyd and has Mr. Severe as overseer
* Mr. Severe is barbaric, cursing and beating every millisecond of the day
* Mr. Severe soon died, and his new overseer is Mr. Hopkins
  + Much better than Mr. Severe
* The best jobs of Lloyd’s plantations are located on the home plantation
  + Slaves behave in hopes to earn an errand to there
* Slaves sing about the hardships of slavery

Chapter 3

* Lloyd has a garden and he deters slaves from visiting it
* Lloyd has fancy horses
* Lloyd is extremely wealthy, with thousands of slaves and dozens of servants
  + He can’t recognize all his slaves
* Slaves are trained to always flex good things about their masters, and never complain about them
  + Saying negative things to anyone about their master runs the risk of their master finding out and delivering them severe punishment

Chapter 4

* Mr. Hopkins got fired for being too kind. He was replaced by Mr. Gore
  + Delivers tough punishment

Chapter 5

* Children had more leisure time, but less allotted food and clothes
* Douglass to be rented out to an overseer in Baltimore. He’s excited to go
  + He views this as a positive turning point in his life

Chapter 6

* Mrs. Auld is the kindest white Douglass has ever encountered
* Mrs. Auld starts teaching Douglass how to read
* Mr. Auld scolds at Mrs. Auld, telling her that slaves aren’t supposed to be able to read, or else it will begin to think on its own and won’t be exploitable anymore
  + Douglass realized his pathway to freedom
  + Mrs. Auld turned from being the kindest person to being ruined into a devil
* Slaves in the city are more privileged than those on plantations

Chapter 7

* Douglass gave hungry white boys bread in exchange for reading and writing lessons
* Douglass reads a book on what slavery really is. He painfully regrets reading about it
* He finds the word abolition interesting
* He can write

Chapter 8

* Douglass’ master died, so he needed to return to that plantation to have his value evaluated to determine how to split up the master’s property to heirs
  + Stuff like this keeps on going
* Douglass now belongs to Mrs. Lucretia, instead of the feared Master Andrew. Douglass is to return to Baltimore
* Douglass’ grandma is regarded as useless and left to isolation due to old age, despite the fact that she’s the reason why Lloyd had slaves and plantations in the first place yet no one knows
* Eventually, after a couple master deaths, he ended up in some Master Thomas’ possession and was barred from returning to Baltimore

Chapter 9

* His new master is mean, but not firm, doesn’t know how to hold on to slaves
* Southern religions use God to justify slavery
* Master Thomas says Douglass is ruined by being used to city slave life, so he hires him out to Master Covey for a year, who is famously known to forcibly train slaves to be ideal slaves

Chapter 10

* Covey is a harsh beater and is hiding everywhere looking for every opportunity to beat someone up
* One day, as Douglass was working, he fell ill and fainted. Covey beat him up very badly, thinking Douglass felt like relaxing on the job
* Douglass eventually mustered enough strength to run to his owner Master Thomas to beg for protection
* Master Thomas says that Covey is a safe person and requires Douglass to return to him the next day after healing
* Douglass returns and hides as Covey looks to beat him up again
* Douglass goes to neighbor slave Sandy Jenkins for advice
* Sandy urges Douglass to return
* Sandy gives Douglass a root to carry in his pocket, claiming that it would protect Douglass from all future beatings
* Douglass returns and Covey doesn’t do anything harsh to Douglass
* One day, Covey decides to beat Douglass and Douglass fights back
  + Douglass fought so well that it traumatized Covey into never looking to beat Douglass ever again
* During winter holiday, slaves are given freedom but are forced to drink an unfavorable amount of alcohol and do shitty stuff so that freedom looks like shit to the slaves and they’ll never think of looking for freedom ever again
* After the year with Covey, Douglass gets rented out to Freeland
  + Freeland is humane
* Douglass opens a minischool to teach other slaves how to read
  + The minischool was eventually forced to close
* The other slaves working under Freeland bonded very close together
* Douglass creates a plan for him and the other Freeland slaves to run away together to NY
* The holdout of the plan blew the whistle and the group got arrested on escape day
* Everyone was soon released from prison, except for Douglass the leader
* Master Auld eventually came and released Douglass from prison to rent him out to Master Hugh in Baltimore
* Master Hugh hired Douglass out to Gardener’s ship-building yard to pick up a trade
* The whites at the shipbuilding place originally were cool about working with blacks
* Eventually, whites were afraid of blacks replacing their jobs, so they were very hostile at blacks
* Douglass was severely beaten up by the whites, so Master Hugh banned him from ever returning there
* After healing Douglass, Douglass was allowed to contract employment at Price’s shipyard and earned large wages
  + He gives all his wages to Master Hugh

Chapter 11

* Douglass didn’t include everything in this book because he doesn’t want to hurt other slaves’ chance at running away
* Douglass opposes the Underground Railroad, as its operation is too public, therefor hurts other slaves’ chance at running away
* Douglass questions why he must hand over his earned wages to his master
  + He seeks to run away again
* Douglass wants to save money to fund his runaway
* Douglass applies to Owner Thomas to allow him to hire out his time (for a certain fee, Douglass would be able to do whatever he wanted)
  + Thomas said no, thinking he’ll run away
* Douglass applies to Master Hugh to allow him to hire out his time
  + Hugh allowed, for a weekly payment of $6
  + Douglass gets a job
* Once, Douglass’ weekly payment was a day late because of a company camping trip
  + Douglass is no longer allowed to hire his time
  + Master Hugh thinks Douglass is planning to run away
* Douglass spends a week not working, in retaliation
* Douglass gets himself another job, to hide suspicions about his plan to run away
* Douglass eventually successfully reaches NY
* In NY, Douglass is without food and shelter, and everyone there can potentially turn him in as a fugitive
* David Ruggles took Douglass in to help him
* Douglass gets married to his wife Anna
* Ruggles advises Douglass to move to New Bedford to get a job
* In New Bedford, Douglass moved in with Nathan Johnson
* Douglass is surprised that without slavery, the north is more upscale than the south
* New Bedford is protective of fugitives
* Douglass gets a job, but not of his usual trade, as that trade still fears blacks taking over
* Douglass gets involved in the abolition movement

Appendix

* Southern religion is hypocritically disgusting for using God to justify slavery