**Making Inferences: Frederick Douglas**

**Section 1**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Now that you've been working on this lesson question "How does Frederick Douglass's viewpoint affect your understanding of different characters?", well, you've already thought about different perspectives and your own experiences when you have a disagreement with someone else. Recall the idea that sometimes people have different views about many things. |
| 00:00:21 | These points of view depend on perspective and can be very different, even when considering the same thing. Now, before you jump into understanding Frederick Douglass's point of view, recall the first reading from the Narrative and consider Frederick Douglass's early life as an enslaved child. You will take a quick look at how slavery would have affected Frederick Douglass's perspective or viewpoint. |
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**Section 3**

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| 00:00:00 | TEACHER: Let's define viewpoint and point of view. Viewpoint is a way of looking at or thinking about something. Different characters in the same story may have different viewpoints. Point of view is the angle from which an author presents a story. A personal narrative is presented from the |
| 00:00:24 | first-person point of view. And in the first-person point of view, the author writes using "I" and expresses his or her version of events. Well, now that I know the definition, how do I determine an author's viewpoint? Well, here are the steps I would take. I would consider the author's age, experience, living conditions, family life, feelings, and emotions. |
| 00:00:50 | I would identify personal descriptions and feelings. Do they reveal a particular perspective or way of seeing the world? Then I would try to notice what is important to the author. What is he or she focusing on or ignoring? Now let's put these steps into practice. I'm going to read this passage out loud, |
| 00:01:09 | and you follow along. And then let's see if we can find the author's viewpoint. "But alas, this kind heart had but a short time to remain such. The fatal poison of irresponsible power was already in her hands and soon commenced its infernal work. That cheerful eye, under the influence of slavery, soon became red with rage. |
| 00:01:31 | That voice made all of sweet accord change to one of harsh and horrid discord. And that angelic face gave place to that of a demon." First, I need to identify personal descriptions and feelings. Are they revealing a particular perspective or a way of seeing the world? I have to try to notice important details here. |
| 00:01:53 | I have to see what the author is focusing on or what he is ignoring. Douglass, in this case, is describing the change in his mistress or his owner. We can see that she no longer has a kind heart after a certain period of time. And her cheerful eye turns into that of red with rage. And her sweet voice becomes harsh and of horrid discord. |
| 00:02:18 | And that angelic face becomes that placed-- replaced by that of a demon. It's important to Douglass to note that he thinks slavery is responsible for this change. The fatal poison of irresponsible power was already in her hands and soon commenced its infernal work. Well, this means that she had some power now over another human being. |
| 00:02:43 | And he believes that she couldn't help but being influenced by it. Douglass's viewpoint is that slavery was destructive for everyone involved with it, whether they were enslaved or not. Now you see if you can find the author's viewpoint in this next passage. |