

Amos Fortune Freeman Study Guide

Name _____

Amos Fortune, Free Man Study Guide

Africa 1725 & The Middle Passage, pp. 3–33

1. How old is At-mun at the beginning of the novel?
2. Why do the men leave their weapons at the edge of camp?
3. How does Ath-mun feel about her brother?
4. How does At-mun handle the circumstances of being captured?
5. Why is At-mun revered by his people?
6. How are the captives treated as they make their way through the jungle?
7. What does At-mun feel as his surroundings begin to change?
8. Why does At-mun decide not to attempt to escape from the canoe?
9. Why are the people less responsive to At-mun as their days in captivity wear on?
10. Why are only the healthiest and largest of the captives in the pits of interest to the master of the *White Falcon*?
11. What do the guards think will cure the prideful way At-mun holds his head?
12. Why doesn't the master choose anyone over age 25 or under 4 feet tall?
13. What is At-mun thinking as the ship sails away from Africa?
14. Why does At-mun work so hard to remember the past?
15. What two things does At-mun vow to always remember?
16. What are some of the reasons that not all of the African captives will survive the voyage across the ocean?
17. Which slaves are left when the ship reaches the last port?

Boston 1725–1740 & Woburn 1740–1779, pp. 34–80

1. Why does Caleb Copeland think Amos is part animal?
2. How does Celia's treatment of Amos differ from the way Caleb initially treats him?
3. What does Amos first understand in the Copeland household?
4. What is the "Meeting every First Day"?
5. How is Amos taught to read English?
6. Why is waiting for freedom so difficult for some slaves?
7. Why is Amos interested in the slave ships that come to Boston?
8. How does Amos feel when he learns he will be sold?

Amos Fortune Freeman study guide is an essential resource for students and educators looking to delve into the life and contributions of Amos Fortune, an African American who overcame slavery to become a successful businessman and community leader in the 18th and 19th centuries. This guide provides insights into the themes, characters, and historical context of Fortune's life, making it a valuable tool for understanding his significance in American history.

Overview of Amos Fortune Freeman

Amos Fortune was born in Africa in the early 1700s and was enslaved as a young man. After being

brought to America, he purchased his freedom and worked tirelessly to create a better life for himself and others. His story is one of resilience, determination, and the pursuit of justice, highlighting the struggles and successes of African Americans during a time of great adversity.

Key Themes in Amos Fortune Freeman

Understanding the key themes in "Amos Fortune Freeman" can help readers appreciate the depth of the narrative. Here are some significant themes to consider:

1. Freedom and Slavery

- The journey from slavery to freedom is central to Fortune's life.
- The contrast between his early life as a slave and his later achievements emphasizes the value of freedom.
- The book explores the psychological impact of slavery on individuals and society.

2. Perseverance and Hard Work

- Fortune's determination to succeed despite facing numerous obstacles serves as an inspiration.
- His work ethic and entrepreneurship illustrate the importance of perseverance in achieving one's goals.
- The narrative emphasizes that success often requires significant effort and resilience.

3. Community and Leadership

- Fortune's commitment to his community highlights the importance of giving back.
- His role as a leader in his community showcases the impact one individual can have on others.
- The story emphasizes the value of collaboration and support within communities.

4. Education and Knowledge

- Education is portrayed as a pathway to empowerment and success.
- Fortune's pursuit of knowledge reflects the broader struggle for education among African Americans.
- The book underscores the importance of learning as a tool for social change.

Character Analysis

The characters in "Amos Fortune Freeman" are essential to understanding the narrative. Here are some key figures:

1. Amos Fortune

- A central figure whose life story serves as the backbone of the narrative.
- His transformation from a slave to a respected businessman exemplifies the theme of resilience.
- Fortune's character is marked by integrity, kindness, and a desire to uplift others.

2. The People of Jaffrey

- The residents of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, play a crucial role in Fortune's life.
- Their interactions with Fortune illustrate the complexities of race relations during his time.
- Some characters are supportive, while others represent the prejudices of the era.

3. Fortune's Mentors and Friends

- Various mentors contribute to Fortune's development and success.
- The relationships he builds highlight the importance of community support.
- These characters often embody the values of compassion and understanding.

Historical Context

To fully appreciate the significance of Amos Fortune's life, it's important to understand the historical context in which he lived:

1. The Transatlantic Slave Trade

- Fortune was born during a period when the transatlantic slave trade was at its height.
- Millions of Africans were forcibly taken from their homes and subjected to slavery in the Americas.
- Understanding this context helps readers grasp the magnitude of Fortune's achievements.

2. Life in Colonial America

- The 18th century was a time of significant change in America, with growing tensions that would lead to the Revolutionary War.
- The economy relied heavily on slavery, creating a complex societal structure.
- Fortune's experiences reflect the challenges faced by free African Americans during this time.

3. The Abolition Movement

- The abolition movement gained momentum in the 19th century, advocating for the end of slavery.
- Fortune's life serves as a precursor to the fight for civil rights and equality.
- His story is a testament to the strength of individuals who fought against oppression.

Discussion Questions

Engaging with the text can deepen understanding and encourage critical thinking. Consider the following discussion questions:

1. What does Amos Fortune's journey tell us about the nature of freedom?
2. How did Fortune's relationships with others shape his character and success?
3. In what ways does the story reflect the broader societal issues of its time?
4. How can we relate Fortune's perseverance to contemporary struggles for justice and equality?
5. What role does education play in Fortune's life, and how can we apply this lesson today?

Conclusion

The **Amos Fortune Freeman study guide** serves as an essential tool for understanding the life and legacy of Amos Fortune. Through exploring key themes, character analyses, and historical context, readers can appreciate the significance of his story in the broader narrative of American history. This guide encourages critical reflection and discussion, making it an invaluable resource for students, educators, and anyone

interested in the struggles and triumphs of African Americans throughout history. As we continue to confront issues of inequality and injustice today, Fortune's life reminds us of the power of resilience, community, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Amos Fortune and what is his significance in American history?

Amos Fortune was an African man born in 1710 who was enslaved and later purchased his freedom. He became a successful businessman and a prominent figure in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, known for his contributions to the community and his advocacy for the rights of African Americans.

What themes are explored in 'Amos Fortune: Free Man'?

The book explores themes of freedom, resilience, identity, and the struggle against racism. It highlights the importance of perseverance in the face of adversity and the quest for personal dignity.

How does the narrative of Amos Fortune reflect the broader experiences of African Americans during his time?

Amos Fortune's narrative reflects the broader experiences of African Americans by illustrating the harsh realities of slavery, the difficult journey to freedom, and the ongoing fight for equality and recognition in a society often marred by racial prejudice.

What role does education play in Amos Fortune's life?

Education plays a crucial role in Amos Fortune's life as it empowers him to navigate a society that seeks to limit his opportunities. He values learning and self-improvement, which helps him succeed as a businessman and community leader.

How is the character of Amos Fortune portrayed in the book?

Amos Fortune is portrayed as a determined, intelligent, and compassionate individual. His character embodies strength and resilience, showcasing his ability to overcome obstacles and his dedication to helping others in his community.

What literary devices are used in 'Amos Fortune: Free Man' to enhance the storytelling?

The author uses various literary devices, including vivid imagery, symbolism, and foreshadowing, to enhance the storytelling. These devices help convey the emotional depth of Amos's journey and the historical context of his life.

What impact did 'Amos Fortune: Free Man' have on readers and educational curricula?

The book has had a significant impact on readers and educational curricula by providing a powerful narrative of African American history. It is often used in schools to teach about slavery, freedom, and the importance of social justice, inspiring discussions about race and equality.

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