

In-Archives Handouts

by Leah Dilworth



Part of an exercise described at <http://www.teacharchives.org/articles/complementing-anthologies/>

Group 1: *Narrative of the Life of Moses Grandy...*

Group members and contact info:

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_____	_____
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Activity instructions

You will be working with a pamphlet published in 1854.

Use this worksheet and extra sheets of paper as needed to take notes. *Everyone* in the group should take notes; the group Note-Taker is responsible for typing up observation and discussion notes to send to the group within 48 hours.

1. Care and Handling

Read the BHS citation to see the care and handling instructions. You may use your cell phone or digital camera to take photographs, but **TURN FLASH OFF**.

2. Observation (35 mins.)

Inspect the pamphlet, front and back. Note its approximate size and other physical properties. Describe any marks you notice:

Note the following information:

- Full title:
- Author:
- Place, publisher, and date of publication:

- The “front matter” in a book includes parts like the title page, contents, foreword, preface, acknowledgment, introduction, dedication, and prologue. Does this book have them? *Read and take notes* on all front matter and note the authors of each part. What purpose does each section serve? Why do you think they are included in the book?
- “Back matter” may include an epilogue, afterword, conclusion, postscript, appendix or addendum, glossary, bibliography, and/or index. *Read and take notes* on all back matter and note all authors. What purpose does each section serve? Why do you think they are included in the book?
- Does this pamphlet have illustrations? If so, *examine* each one and note the artist, captions, and page numbers. Photograph each one. What purpose do the illustrations serve? Refer to specific illustrations.
- *Read* the first two pages of the narrative. Pay special attention to the opening paragraphs of the narrative. What do you notice about how the author begins his story? What draws you into the narrative and makes you want to read more? What can you tell about the narrator in the opening pages? Copy appropriate quotations. Take a couple of minutes to skim farther into the text, noting anything that catches your interest.

3. Inference (10 mins.)

Now take all the data you have collected and use it to answer these questions. *Discuss* these questions in your group *before* you do any writing.

- Why do you think this pamphlet was written and published? What evidence in the pamphlet helps you know why it was produced? Think about the physical qualities of the pamphlet as well as all the people involved in its publication.

- For what audience was the pamphlet written? What evidence supports your inference? Again, think about the pamphlet as something that was written, published, and sold to readers.

4. *Online response, due Oct. 14*

Thinking ahead to your response paper, make a list of specific aspects of this pamphlet that seem relevant to any of our assigned course readings.

Write a complete, correct *bibliographic citation* for this pamphlet in MLA style:

Author last name, Author first name. *Publication Title*. Place of publication:
Publisher, Date of publication. Medium of publication. [In this case, the
medium is "Print."]