

The Life of Olaudah Equiano (p. 71) Guided Questions

As you read the selection, make a list of specific things that Equiano encounters for the first time. These can be things he sees or hears or experiences.

Meet Olaudah Equiano (p. 69)

1. How old was Equiano when he and his sister were kidnapped?
2. What was the name of Equiano’s village in Africa?
3. What country is now in the village’s location?

Build Background (p. 70)

4. How long was Equiano’s journey?
5. What is the most difficult part of the journey called?

Life of Olaudah Equiano (p. 71 – Stop reading after first paragraph on page 75)

6. From which point of view is the selection written?
7. Cargo means “goods carried on a ship, aircraft, or a motor vehicle”. What is being referred to as cargo? Explain the irony.
8. What did Equiano think was going to happen to him?
9. What caused Equiano to not want to eat?
10. Who did Equiano consider to be his last friend?
11. What happened to him when he refused to eat?
12. Why would the white men be concerned with whether or not the prisoners ate?
13. Why did the crew keep a closer eye on those people that were allowed to remain on deck (above board)?
14. What gave Equiano a little comfort?
15. What are two of the things that Equiano asked his countrymen about?
16. What did Equiano and the others think was the cause of the ship stopping?
17. What three things caused the prisoners to almost suffocate?
18. What does “necessary tub” mean?
19. Why was Equiano not put in chains (fettters)?
20. What specific act caused Equiano and the others to be completely astonished by the cruelty of the white men?
21. What happened to the men who tried to steal their fish?

