

Guided Reading: The Life of Olaudah Equiano (p. 71)

Read Build Background paragraph on page 70. Throughout the selection, make a list of things that the narrator encounters for the first time. This list can contain things he sees, hears, or experience.

1. What (specifically) was Equiano afraid of at the beginning of the selection?
2. What happened to Equiano when he saw all of the black people chained together?
3. What does Equiano wish for instead of his present situation?
4. What happened to him when he refused to eat?
5. Explain how the following quote is an example of irony: *"the white people looked and acted ... in so savage a manner; for I had never seen among any people such instances of brutal cruelty"*?
[Hint: Think about the time period in which this took place]
6. What happened to the man that was severely beaten?
7. Because they knew nothing about ships, what did the prisoners think caused the other boat to stop?
8. List at list three words/phrases that describe the conditions below deck.
9. What is a "necessary tub"?
10. What especially cruel thing did the crew do with the extra fish they caught?
11. Three of the prisoners tried to commit suicide by jumping overboard. What happened to the third man?
12. Why do you think this happened to the third man?
13. What small bit of information slightly eased the minds of the slaves once they reached Barbados?
14. What happened to the group of brothers from the ship?
15. In your own words, explain the following quote: *"Is it not enough that we are torn from our country and friends, to toil for your luxury and lust of gain"?*