

ARBETSBLAD



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THE CAMBRIA

Episode five – The fog

❖ A character who is mentioned but not actively in the story:

Edward Covey was Frederick Douglass' master for some time, and famous as a so-called "negro-breaker" who would break down the will and the body of a slave, making him compliant. Mr. Douglass, according to his own autobiography, fought back after a particularly cruel whipping and conquered Covey who never again dared lay a hand on him. Mr. Douglass didn't receive any legal enforcements due to this, something which could be explained by Covey not wanting to risk his reputation as a "negro-breaker" by proving that he had been defeated by a slave.





Discuss before listening:

- What do you know of punishments for a slave breaking the rules? How was he/she punished, do you think?
- Mr. Douglass said rumours had it that his master was his father. How common do you think this was? What do you think happened with slaves with fairer skin? Were they treated differently, do you think? Were they recognized? Taught to read? Given better positions?

Discuss after listening:

- What do you think it is that makes Captain Judkins change his mind about Mr. Douglass?
- Why do you think Cecily decides to free Mr. Douglass?

Exercises after listening:

- Research and find out: who would become the captain of a trans-Atlantic ship? Was the title inherited? Paid for? Obtained through training or education?
- What was it like to make a trans-Atlantic journey? How many such journeys could a captain make in his life? How often did something happen on a journey? How many died? Write a Captain's log about how to become a Captain of a trans-Atlantic ship and then make such a journey.
- What do you know about the triangle trade? Find out everything you can about it. Are there any movies you can watch about it?
- What was it like to travel as a slave aboard a slave ship? How did they live aboard the ship? What did they eat? How did they sleep? How did they exercise? How many died during a journey? For how many days did they have to travel?
- Frederick Douglass lists many of the punishments that a slave owner could use on his slaves. Find out more about these slave codes that existed on plantations. Compare them with the laws in Sweden of this time. Are they about the same? More cruel? Milder?



Useful links:

- About the slave trade:

<http://americanhistory.about.com/od/colonialamerica/g/Triangle-Trade.htm>

<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/triangle.aspx>

<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/websites.aspx>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/industrial_era/the_slave_trade/revision/2/

<http://www.understandingslavery.com/>

- About life aboard a slave ship:

http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/middle_passage/index.aspx

http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/middle_passage/olaudah_equiano.aspx

http://www.understandingslavery.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=308&Itemid=153

- About being a captain aboard a slave ship:

http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/middle_passage/john_newton.aspx

- About being a captain in the 1800's:

<http://www.maritimeheritage.org/news/womenatsea.html>

<http://www.maritimeheritage.org/captains/index.html>

- About slave codes:

<http://www.ushistory.org/us/27b.asp>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part1/1p268.html>

<http://academic.udayton.edu/race/02rights/slavelaw.htm>

Did you know?

Sweden also participated in the slave trades, mainly through colonies in Cabo Corso, Ghana and Saint-Barthémely in the Caribbean.

Saint-Barthémely was a free port, which meant that trading, including the trading with slaves, import and export could take place there at a low cost or none at all, as long as it went through the colony.

In 1787, Governor Pehr Herman von Rosenstein wrote the Code Noir which regulated the lives and punishments of the slaves in the Swedish colony of Saint-Barthémely. Written testimonies from the same period of time states that punishments in the Swedish colony were extremely harsh.

Among these was the whipping of pregnant women who were to be whipped laying down with a hole in the ground for the belly.

Sweden abolished slave trade in 1813 and by 1830, there was a death penalty for anyone who traded with slaves. Slaves on Saint-Barthémely, however, were not freed until 1847.