

Critical-Thinking Questions

"A Child Slave in California"

1. What details illustrate the quality of Shyima's life as a slave?
2. Why does the author include both narrative sections (sections that tell Shyima's story) and expository sections (sections that provide general information on slavery)?
3. On page 13, the writer states, "The price that Shyima paid, however, was immeasurable." What does she mean?
4. What are the literal and figurative meanings of the section title "Into the Darkness"? How does Frederick Douglass use imagery of light and darkness?
5. What does Shyima most value about her freedom from slavery?