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The autobiographical book about the life of Frederick Douglass is a great example of high literature. The story is based on the diary of the author-slave, who was fighting for his freedom. It presents us an insightful look at the mentality of slavery, physical and spiritual agony, which it caused.

First of all, let us speak about the image of Douglass, who appears in the novel as the narrator of the story and as the protagonist. We may see a clear difference between these two sides of his image. Douglass depicts himself in the novel as an interesting, inexperienced and naïve young slave. At first, he acts as an obedient slave, who manages to fulfill all his duties. However, he becomes a strong character, who tries to survive in the cruel life of slavery and to resist his masters. He becomes conscious that there is no justice in the world after the scenes, such as cruel whipping of Aunt Hester by his master, Captain Anthony (Douglass, 6), or prohibition to be taught to read (Douglass, 29). Such moments show the readers the physical and psychic cruelty of masters to their slaves. Douglass is sick and tired to be a slave and to live in such terrible conditions that is why he even fights with his another master Covey (Douglass, 62). He gets a desire to be literally educated and to get some knowledge about human rights that helped him to become a free black man in future. In a word, he is rather an optimistic person, who has a strong spiritual sense.

As the narrator, Douglass depicts himself as a reasonable and rational person, who has become older and more experienced one. He tries to reveal all the aspects of slavery from the side of slave owners and actually slaves. Have experienced all that cruel period of his life, he tries to present how and why slavery exists and operates. That is why he decided to write in

the genre of autobiography and to make himself the main character of the novel. In such way, he allows his readers to trust him and to feel all the emotions that he and other slaves have suffered.

The author presents a great effect of slavery on white people, who were also slaveholders. They treated the colored people awfully and it was normal for them to beat and to treat cruelly to them. The colored people had fewer rights than the white ones. Even the white women were very cruel. For example, Lucretia Auld, who inherited half of the property of her father, Captain Anthony, was as cruel as her husband, who made Douglass suffer from hunger and cold (Douglass, 23-24). Another example of the white woman is Sophia Auld, Hugh Auld's wife. At first, she was very kind and sympathetic woman, because she had never had any slaves. When her husband explained to her how the slaves should be treated, she became a real monster (Douglass, 29).

On the contrary, the author depicts the awful life of the women-slaves, who were poor, lived in bad conditions and had no rights to bring up their children. The example of this is Harriet Bailey, Douglass' mother, and also his grandmother. Frederick's aunt Hester is depicted as a very beautiful woman of noble form, who had very few equals among white and colored women, but she was owned by Captain Anthony and was forbidden to have relations with anyone else (Douglass, 5-6). The only one free black woman in his novel was actually his wife, Anna Murray.

In the *Narrative*, Frederick Douglass presents a negative effect on the family, which he has never had because slavery prevents people from having it. His mother-slave was raped by her white master. He was taken from her after he has reached his twelfth month (Douglass, 2). He barely remembers her and when she died he was not allowed to be presented at her funeral. Frederick also tells the story about how the children and grandchildren were separated from his grandmother and were sold away from her (Douglass, 41-42).

Nevertheless, he creates his own family. He has married to Anna Murray (Douglass, 94-95), but he says almost nothing about their marriage except a certificate.

In a nutshell, the story perfectly describes the period of his slavery life, with its real people and its real events. Douglass tried to reveal in his novel the problem of slavery and its effect on people of different social positions. He has shown us that strong belief in ourselves and our future can change everything we want.

Works cited

Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. Anti-slavery office, No. 25
Cornhill, 1845, p.108.