

"Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" (p. 550)
Slave Narrative (autobiography) written by Harriet Jacobs

Discussion Questions:

1. How are the Flint's characterized in the first paragraph? Why might Jacobs include these details?
2. Why does Linda decide she must leave her children?
3. Does Linda's description of her circumstances justify her decision?
4. How does Jacobs' description of the conflicts she faces build suspense?
5. Why might Jacobs have chosen to use pseudonyms for the characters/people in her story?
6. Record a couple examples of dialect that occur in this narrative.
7. In lines 68-70, Mr. Flint says that he will reunite Linda with her children if she returns. Do you think he is telling the truth? Explain your answer with evidence from the text.
8. We know that Linda sacrifices her life for her children. Who makes a sacrifice for Linda? What do these sacrifices suggest about slave families?
9. After reading lines 90-98, how do you feel about Linda? Does your perspective of her change throughout the narrative? Explain your answer.
10. What types of conflict does Jacobs illustrate throughout this narrative? Was any one more impactful on you than another? Explain your answer.