*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

V. *THE TRIALS OF GIRLHOOD*

1. How does Linda’s life change when she turns fifteen?

2. Since morality and decency do not keep Dr. Flint from raping Linda, what is it that stops him from doing so?

Why is he so set on convincing her to willingly submit to his demands?

3. Where can a slave girl look for protection?

4. When Jacobs abruptly switches into the second person, who is she talking to?

5. What does the following statement refer to: *“You surely would refuse to do for the master, on your own soil, the mean and cruel work which trained bloodhounds and the lowest class of whites do for him in the south.”*

6. Why does the mistress hate *“such and such a one among the slaves”*?

7. Why doesn’t ANYONE, black or white, step in and protect Linda?

8. Why does Linda feel guilty? What other emotions keep her silent about her treatment?

9. What point is Jacobs making with the story of the black and white sisters?

10. What emotional response is Jacobs trying to evoke in the reader with the last three paragraphs in this section? Is she successful?

VI. *THE JEALOUS MISTRESS*

11. What three things would Jacobs prefer to slavery for either herself or her children?

12. Why does Mrs. Flint hate Linda?

How does Linda respond?

How would YOU respond if you were in Mrs. Flint’s position? Linda’s?

13. What new scheme does Dr. Flint come up with to get Linda alone?

14. How is Linda saved from this new plan?

15. Explain Mrs. Flint’s behavior toward Linda.

16. Why is Linda thankful that she lives in a small town?

17. What is ironic about this statement: *“Have I ever treated you like a Negro? I have never allowed you to*

*be punished, not even to please your mistress. And this is the recompense I get, you ungrateful girl!”*

18. What do the wives of Southern men do with the babies the husbands father with a slave? Why?

19. Does this section end on a note of despair or hope? Explain your answer.

XXI. *THE LOOPHOLE OF RETREAT*

20. Describe the attic that Linda retreats to in order to escape detection

21. What is her one comfort?

22. In what ways was Linda treated well as a slave?

Why did she find the dark attic preferable to life as a slave?

23. How does Linda make the “window” in her room?

Who is the first person she sees through her new window?

24. How does Dr. Flint react to Linda’s disappearance?

25. How does the weather affect Linda?

26. Why is Linda’s grandmother’s house the ideal hiding place?