

0. WHAT WAS IT LIKE? - Story Preface
1. SLAVES IN THE NEW WORLD
2. KIDNAPPED AFRICANS
3. PASSAGE TO THE NEW WORLD
4. FREEDOM - BUT NOT FOR SLAVES
5. POWERS OF THE MIND
6. REBELLION
7. ESCAPE
8. TRIPS ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
9. TRICKS AND DETERMINATION
10. FUGITIVE SLAVE LAWS
11. PUNISHMENT for HELPING RUNAWAYS
12. FORMER SLAVES BECOME ABOLITIONISTS
13. BUYING AND SELLING PEOPLE
14. A TERRIBLE TIME
15. PLANTATION LIFE
16. SPLIT-UP FAMILIES
17. LAST FREE LABOR
- 18. WHAT WAS IT LIKE?**
19. HUMAN SPIRIT PREVAILS



Slaves, in the American South, worked with cotton, rice, tobacco and other crops. In this image, we see barefooted slaves weeding a rice field. The illustration appears at page 76 of Charles C. Coffin's book, *Building the Nation* (published, in New York, during 1883). Online via Slavery Images, sponsored by Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the University of Virginia Library. Click on the image for a better view. PD

The voices of slaves, through memoirs and oral histories, can only begin to tell us what it was like to be uprooted from one's own world and forced to serve the needs of others. Stories of people, pulled from families and sold like chattel, defy anyone's comprehension.

Not all scholars, however, think that the Library of Congress' oral history narratives are reliable.

Believing that former slaves had faded memories or applied personal interpretations to their lives (when they were interviewed decades after emancipation), such individuals think there may be better ways to understand a slave's life. As a result, they largely ignore the wealth of oral-history narratives held by America's national archives.

Other scholars disagree.

Who better to tell us what life was like as a slave than the people who lived it - even if their stories were recorded years "after freedom"? Everyone's life experiences are subject to faded memories and personal interpretations.

As we try to merely glimpse what everyday life was like for African-American slaves, who better to ask than the people themselves? Who better to explain what it must have been to have one's childhood stolen and to live one's life surrounded by scenes of subjection?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHAT-WAS-IT-LIKE-Slave-Voices>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WHAT-WAS-IT-LIKE-Slave-Voices>

AUCTION SALE OF NEGROS		
This day, at Eleven o'clock, A.M. At the North of the Exchange, BY J. S. RYAN.		
1	Kate,	Age, 23
2	Sarah, <i>of color</i>	5
3	Martha, "	2
1	Ralph,	Age, 32
2	Unity, <i>of color</i>	30
1	Jubett, <i>of color</i>	Age, 30
2	Hetty, <i>of color</i>	60
1	Miley,	Age, 35
2	Mary, "	16
3	Julia, "	8
1	Mary, "	35
2	Peggy, <i>of color</i>	17
3	Sally, "	60
1	Rosanna,	Age, 40
2	Paul, "	17
3	Dinah, <i>of color</i>	16
4	James, <i>of color</i>	12
1	Rachel,	Age, 31
2	Matilda, "	14
3	Jacob, <i>of color</i>	10
4	Frank, "	1
1	Isabella, <i>of color</i>	Age, 17
1	Maria, <i>of color</i>	Age, 18
March 8, 1855.		

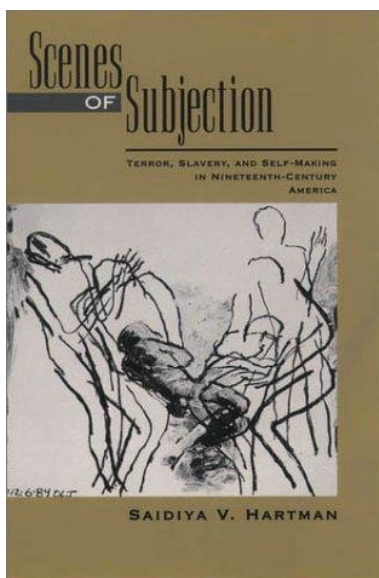
Auction Notice - Slaves Sold by Name

Image online, courtesy [Duke University Libraries](#), Digital Collection.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Auction-Notice-Slaves-Sold-by-Name>

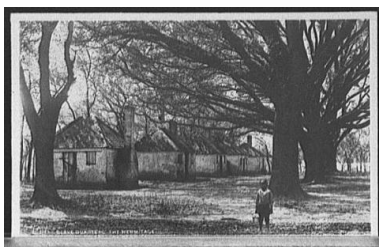


Scenes of Subjection - by Saidiya V. Hartman

Image online, courtesy Oxford University Press and Google Books.

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Slave Homes - Slave Shacks

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. LC-D4-34667.

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WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

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