**Forms of Slave Resistance**

“Day-to-day resistance” was the most common form of opposition to slavery. Breaking tools, feigning illness, staging slowdowns, and committing acts of arson and sabotage—all were forms of resistance and expressions of slaves’ alienation from their masters. One North Carolina cook later recalled: “How many times I spit in the biscuits and peed in the coffee just to get back at them mean white folks.”

Source: Digital History at <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/black_voices/voices_display.cfm?id=25>

In addition to everyday forms of resistance, slaves sometimes staked more direct and ***overt*** claims to freedom. The most common form of overt resistance was flight. As early as 1640, slaves in Maryland and Virginia absconded from their enslavement, a trend that would grow into the thousands, and, eventually, tens of thousands by the time of the Civil War. During the early years of slavery, runaways tended to consist mostly of African-born males.

Source: Sweet, James H. “Slave Resistance.” Freedom’s Story, TeacherServe©. National Humanities Center. http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/freedom/1609-1865/essays/slaveresist.htm

**Vocabulary:** *overt: open*

1. How can the words staging, sabotage, and resistance help us understand the word  
 “feigning” on line 3? What do believe the word means? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Based on your understanding of the term “alien” and the context clues found on   
 line 4, describe what the word “alienation” means. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does “day to day” mean? Does the phrase suggest large or small scale   
 resistance? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Using lines 9-12, circle the three, best words that might help you to understand the   
 meaning of the word *absconded* on line 10. What is the meaning of the word?   
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5. In the document, underline multiple pieces of evidence showing slave resistance.