

Phillis Wheatley-Peters

Teaching Resources for Secondary English Education

Poet



Resources created by
Jessica Schreyer, Ph.D.

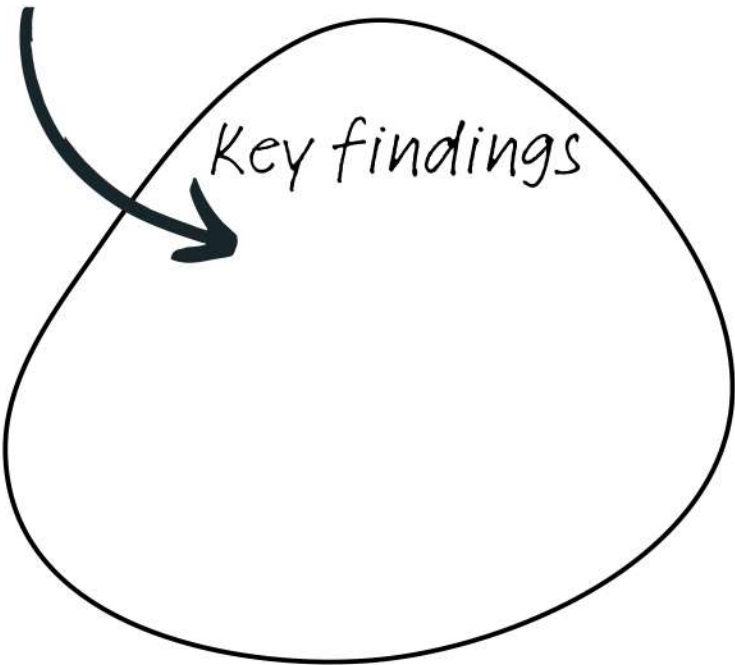
A project to read, think, and write through guided
close reading and analytical writing.



Who Was Phillis?

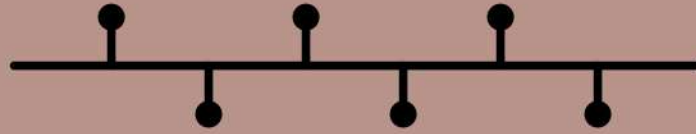
Note: Her African birth name is unknown

Use this page to write down things you learn about Phillis.



Create a timeline of
Phillis's life

Timeline



TIP: Be sure to include dates relevant to her development as a poet

Excelsior University has a great resource on writing timelines.

<https://owl.excelsior.edu/orc/what-to-do-after-reading/analyzing/creating-a-timeline/>

A sample of a Phillis Wheatley Peters timelines is available here:

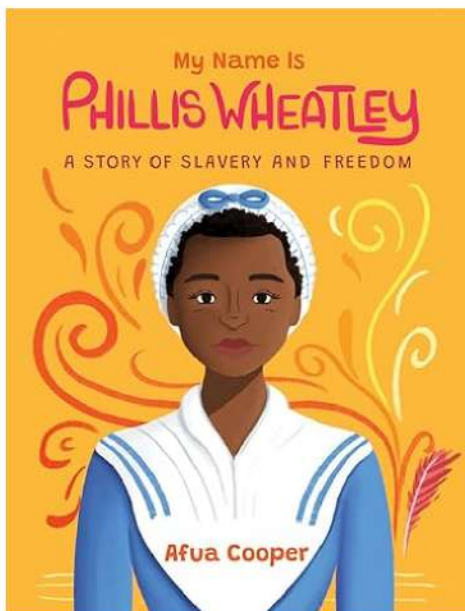
<https://wheatleypetersproject.weebly.com/timelines.html>



Use more paper if you need more space.

Recommended Resources

YA Book



ISBN-10 : 1525310860

Note: *My Name is Phillis Wheatley* is a biography and a Young Adult chapter. While categorized as YA, it offers a wealth of ideas to pull from to discuss her life and poems in a variety of ways for varied levels of students.

Several of her poems

On Being Brought from Africa to America

A Farewell to America

Oceans

Scholarly Perspectives

Poetry Foundation - Phillis Wheatley

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/phillis-wheatley>

Camille T. Dungy on "On Being Brought from Africa to America" by Phillis Wheatley

<https://poets.org/text/camille-t-dungy-being-brought-africa-america-phillis-wheatley>

Mason, Julian. "'Ocean': A New Poem by Phillis Wheatley." *Early American Literature*, vol. 34, no. 1, 1999, pp. 78–83. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25057145>.

Close Reading Poems

On Being Brought from Africa to America

Define unknown or important words from the text:

What are your initial thoughts about the poem?

What are themes within the poem? Note the lines where these themes are found.

Write two discussion questions about the poem.

1.

2.



Close Reading Poems

A Farewell to America

Define unknown or important words from the text:

What are your initial thoughts about the poem?

What are themes within the poem? Note the lines where these themes are found.

Write two discussion questions about the poem.

1.

2.



Close Reading Poems

Oceans

Define unknown or important words from the text:

What are your initial thoughts about the poem?

What are themes within the poem? Note the lines where these themes are found.

Write two discussion questions about the poem.

1.

2.



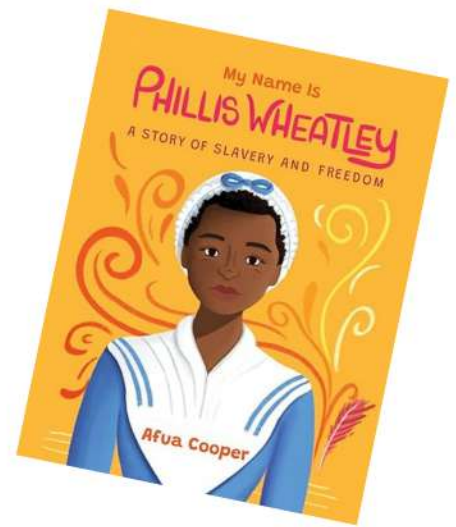
Who is Afua Cooper?

Use this page to write
down things you learn
about Afua Cooper



Close Reading

Chapter One



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

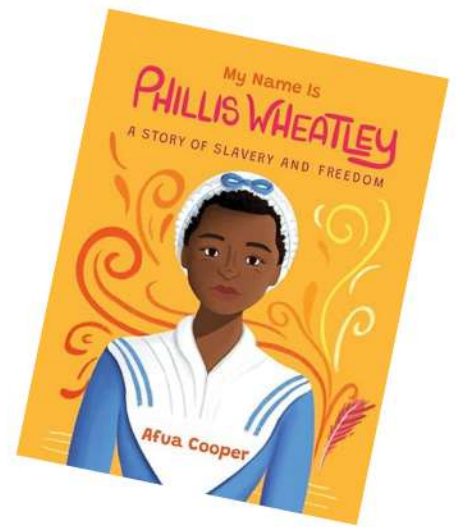
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter One



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

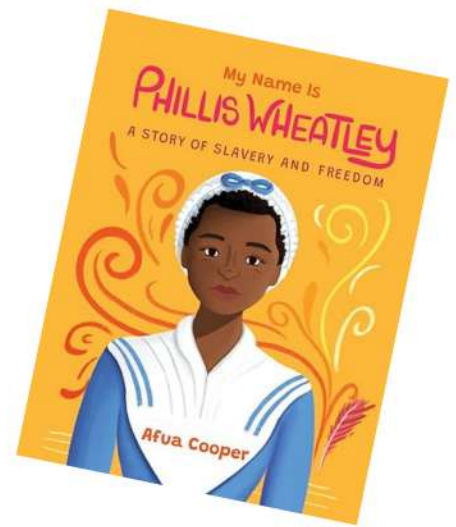
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Two



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

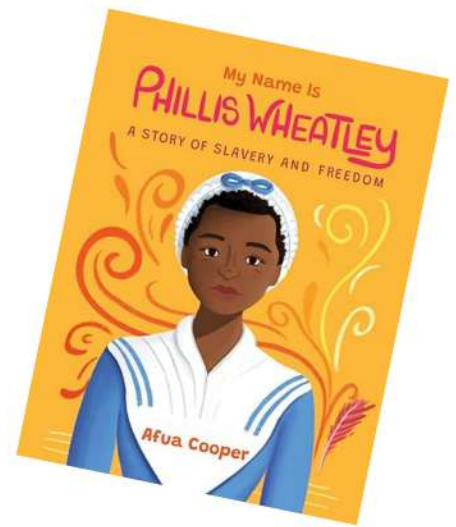
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Two



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

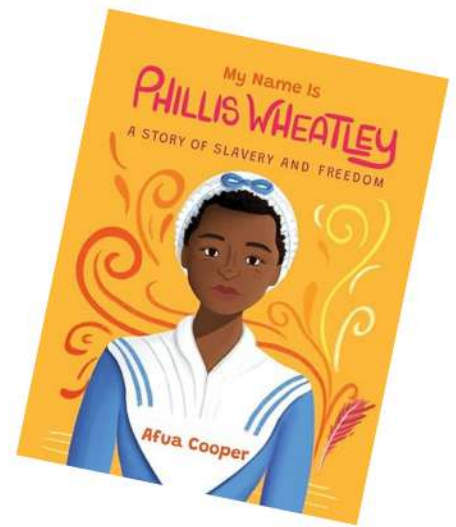
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Three



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

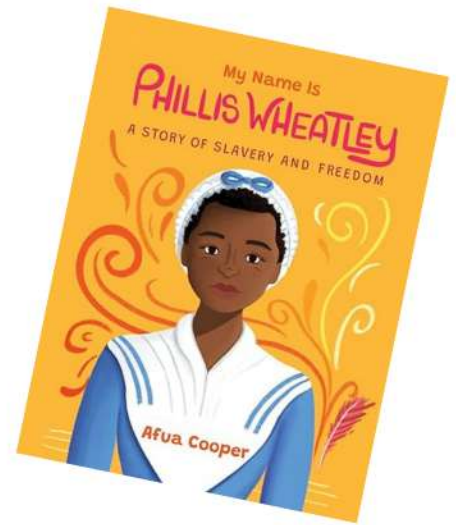
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Three



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

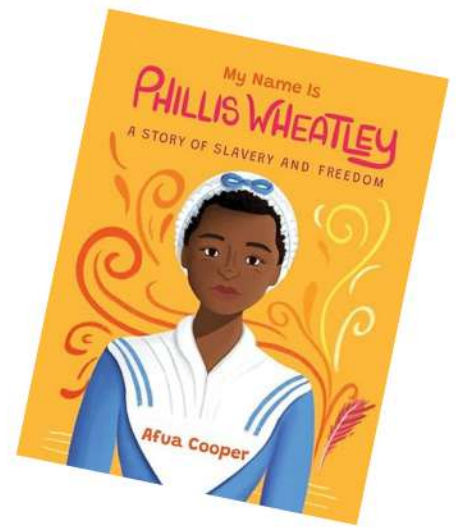
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Four



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

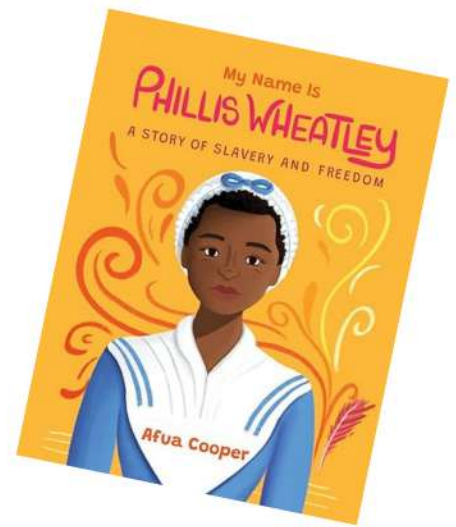
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Four



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

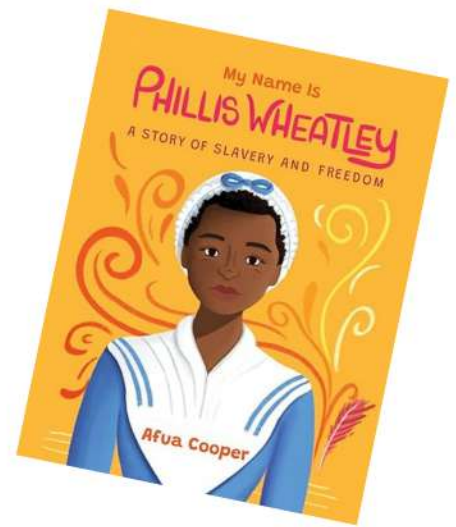
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Five



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

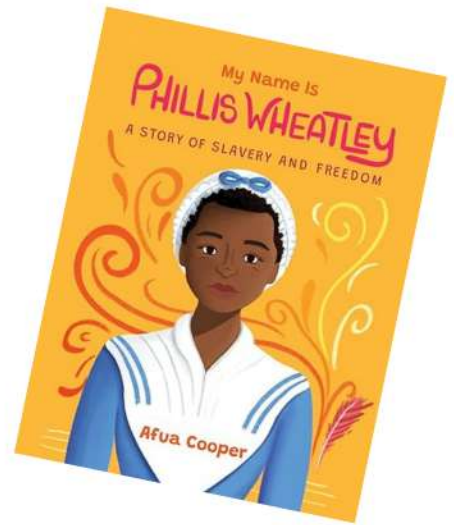
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Five



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

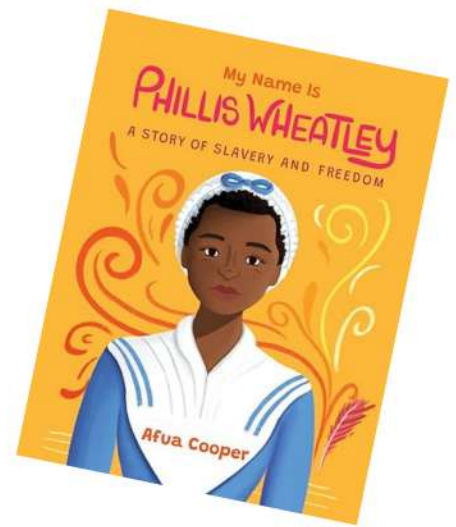
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Six



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

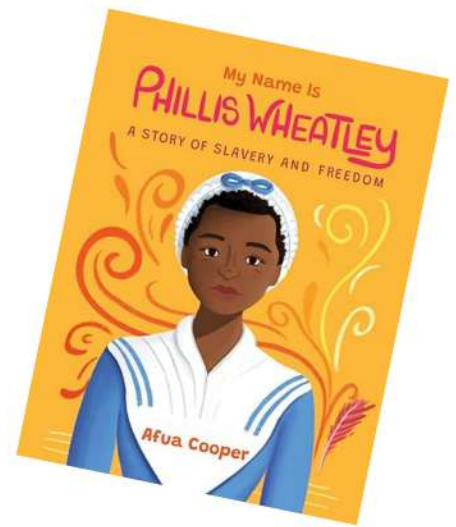
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Six



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

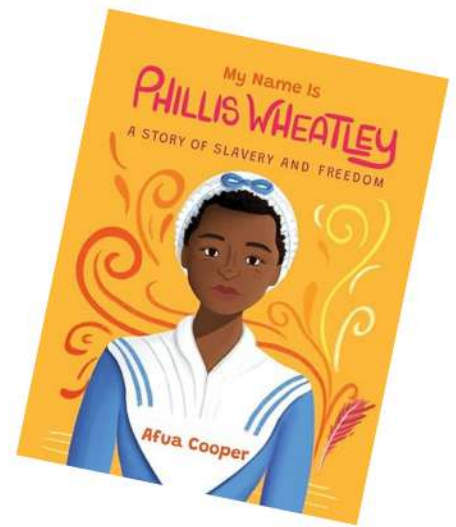
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Seven



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

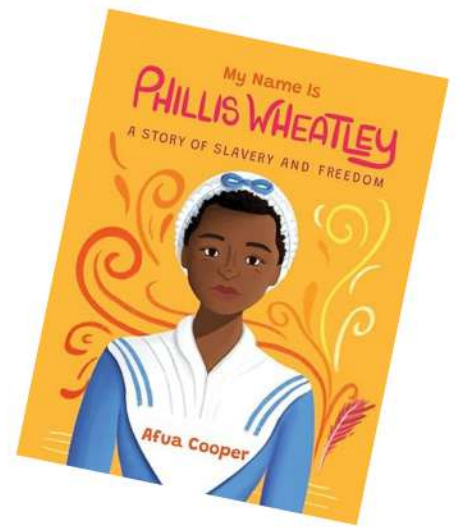
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Seven



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

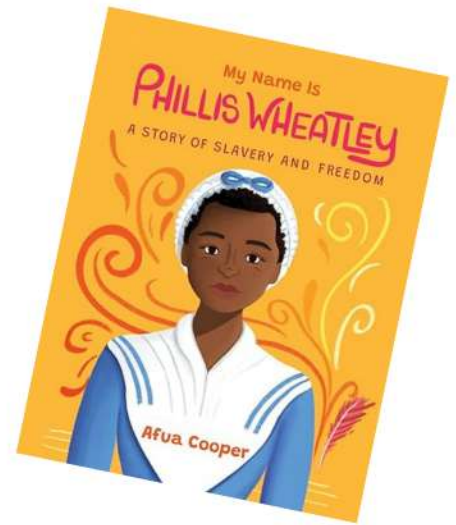
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Eight



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

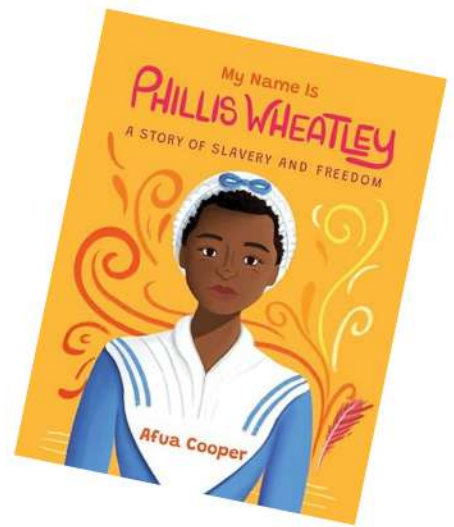
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Eight



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

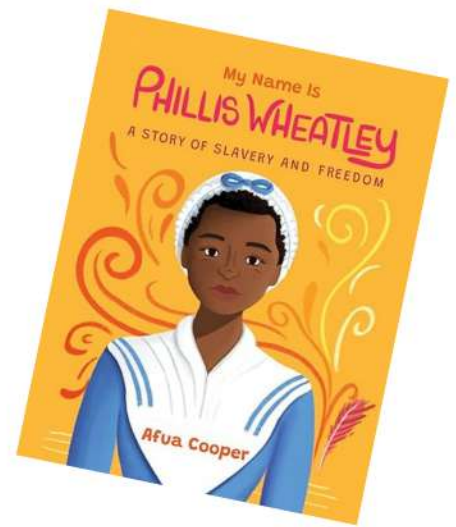
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Nine



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

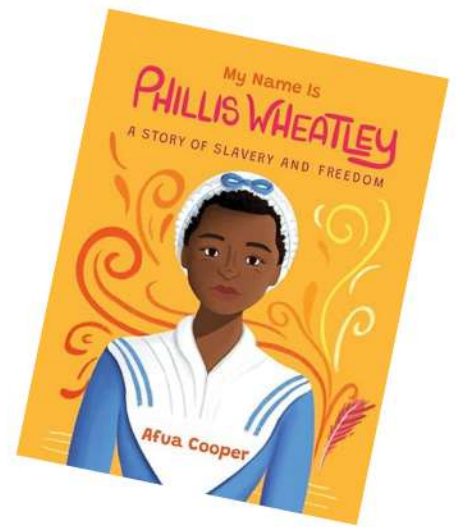
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Nine



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

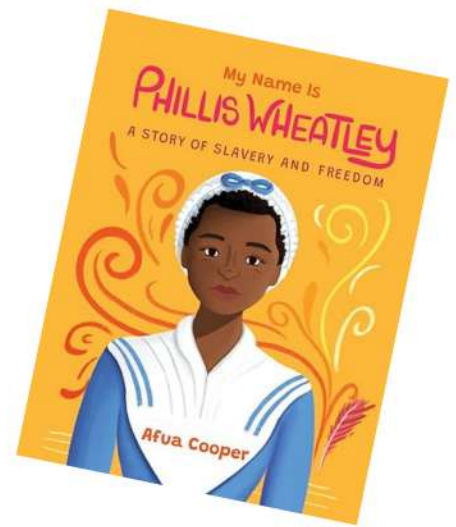
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Ten



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

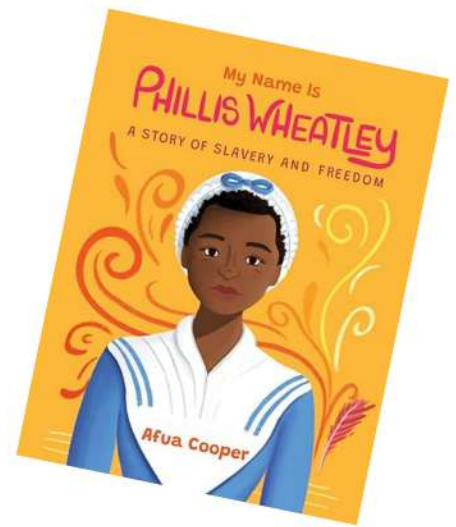
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Ten



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

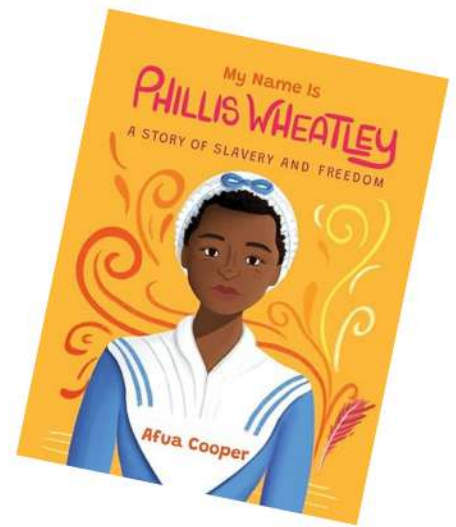
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Eleven



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

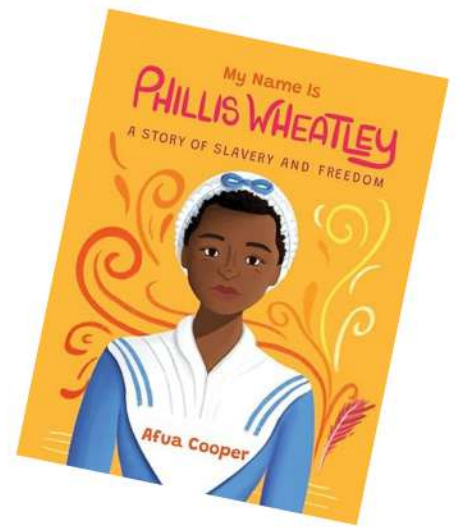
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Eleven



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

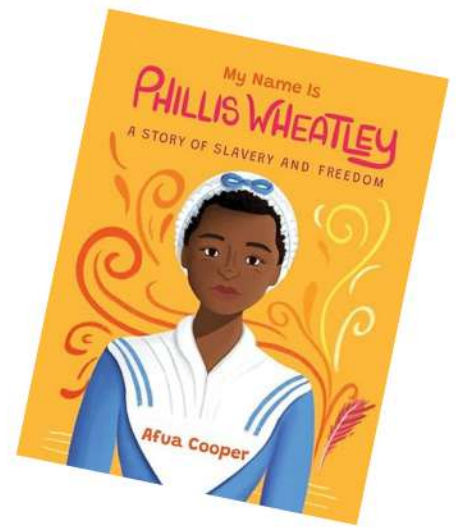
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Twelve



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

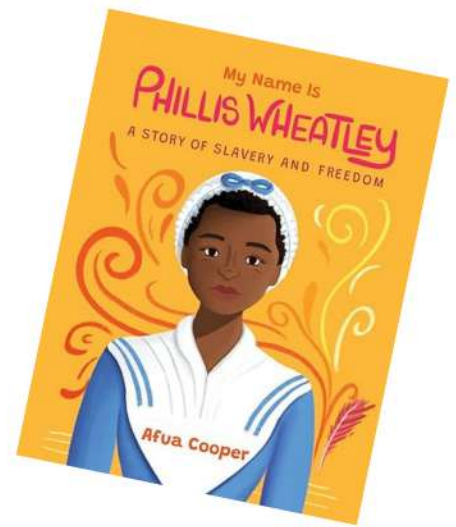
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Twelve



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

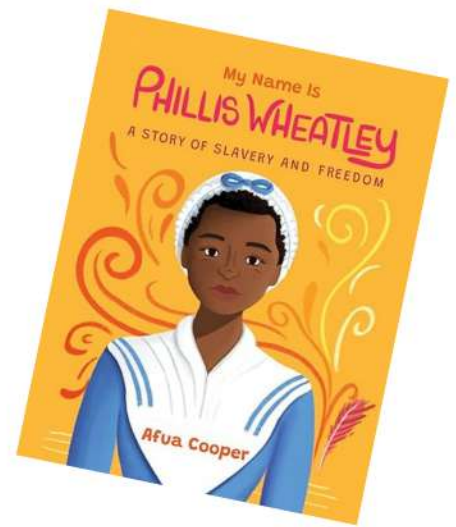
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Thirteen



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

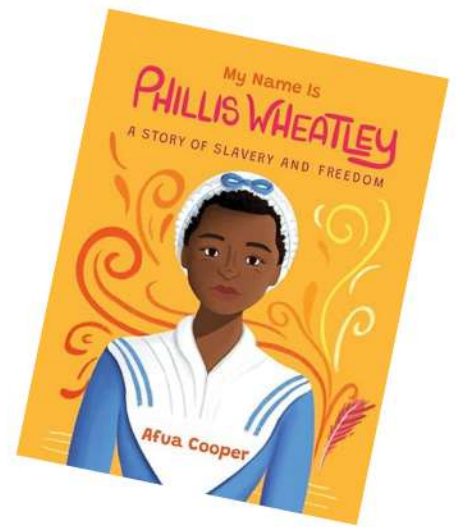
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Thirteen



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

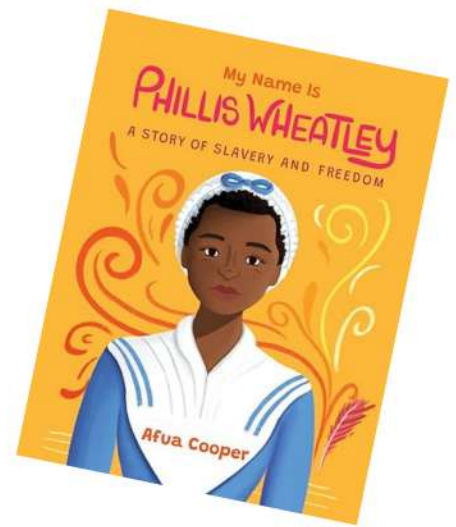
2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Chapter Fourteen



Write a short summary of this chapter:

Define unknown or important words from the text:

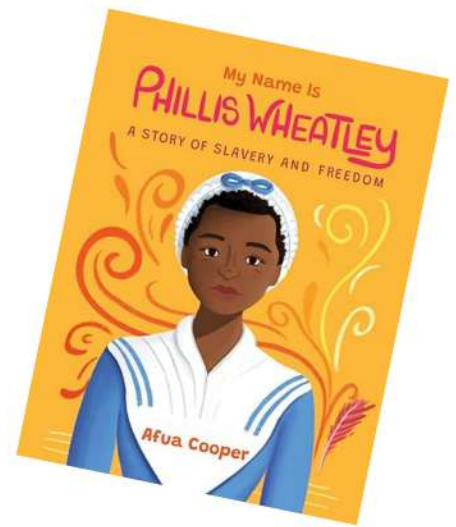
What are the key ideas in this chapter?

What are themes within this chapter?



Close Reading

Chapter Fourteen



How does Phillis connect her experience with her environment in this chapter?

Write two discussion questions about the chapter.

1.

2.

List 3 quotes from the text that are especially important based on your close reading.



Close Reading

Scholarly Perspectives

Mason, Julian. "‘Ocean’: A New Poem by Phillis Wheatley." *Early American Literature*, vol. 34, no. 1, 1999, pp. 78–83. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25057145>.

What are the author’s key claims?

How does this reading influence your understanding of the poems?

How does this reading influence your perspective on the poems?



Close Reading

Scholarly Perspectives

Poetry Foundation - Phillis Wheatley
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/phillis-wheatley>

What are the key claims of this reading?

How does this reading influence your understanding of the poems?

How does this reading influence your perspective on the poems?



Close Reading

Scholarly Perspectives

Camille T. Dungy on “On Being Brought from Africa to America” by Phillis Wheatley
<https://poets.org/text/camille-t-dungy-being-brought-africa-america-phillis-wheatley>

What are the key claims of this reading?

How does this reading influence your understanding of the poems?

How does this reading influence your perspective on the poems?





Themes

Review recurring themes you identified in the poems and chapters. Identify four themes that you may want to analyze and fill out the table below.

Readings this theme was identified in	What main connections would you want to make between the readings using this theme?

Based on your review, which theme do you want to work with?



Analysis

Time to connect the dots!

Now that you have chosen your theme, look at the list of where you have identified this theme. Pick 2 poems and 1 book chapter. Reread these and note new ideas about the theme that you notice.

Poem 1 Title	Ideas about identified theme
Poem 2 Title	
Chapter Numbers and Title	

General Writing

Process:

Brainstorm

Write

Revise

Edit

Proofread

Repeat steps as needed

Essay

After all of this reading and discussion, we are going to take some time to gather all of our ideas to create a literary analysis.

**Literary analysis essays
require us to:**

Closely Read and Comprehend

Analyze the Text

Interpret the Text

Make Connections Between the Texts

General Overview:

Essay should explore / critically evaluate a theme or idea within the texts you choose. This theme or idea should be phrased as an argument (thesis). This includes use of quotations, paraphrasing, and summary. As this is a critical analysis essay, you must use the texts as evidence to support your argument. Reread the texts. The words on the page are primary evidence. Be careful to avoid simply summarizing or retelling.

Citing Text:

Purdue OWL has wonderful resources for using MLA Style citations.

When citing sources, whether quoting or paraphrasing, identify page or line number in parenthetical form.

Include quotation marks and signal phrase when using direct quotations.

General Structure:

- Include a descriptive title
- Introduction with an argumentative thesis
- Background information (note: incorporate the scholarly resources you read here)
- Body paragraphs where you develop your analysis based on your argumentative thesis using two poems and one book chapter. (Note: make connections between all three readings based on your theme)
- Conclusion: Bring together your ideas and reincorporate your argumentative thesis.
- Use MLA Style style, including double-spaced, 12-point font and 1-inch margins





Brainstorm

Create a mind-map to explore your ideas and help begin a plan for organization and quote selection.





Thesis

Draft and revise your argumentative
thesis here





Outline

Create a preliminary outline of your work. You may choose to do a formal outline or you may choose to do a bullet point outline of your main ideas.





Draft

Make notes as you draft of things you need to do to continue to develop your ideas. You may jot down quotes, ideas, or stumbling points to discuss with others.





Revision

After sharing your work, make a plan for revision. Write your plan and timeframes for each step here.





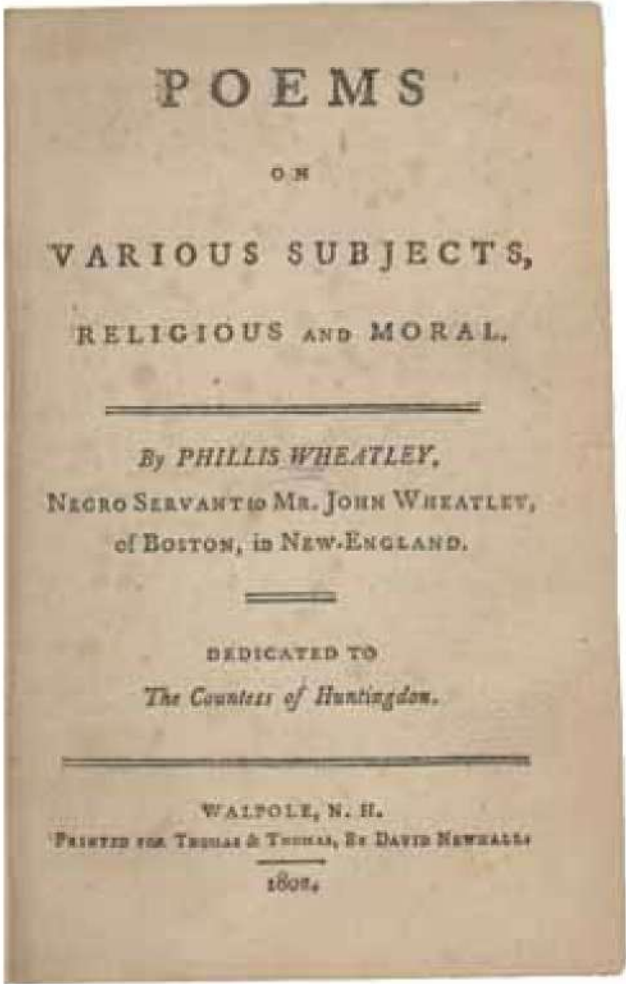
Finishing Touches

Be sure to take time for the finishing touches of editing and proofreading. Make a list of your most common issues with writing below, and ensure you specifically address those as you make your final changes.





Resources



National Museum of African American History & Culture Searchable Museum Exhibit



Full downloads of her book are available online
Selected poems are available at poetryfoundation.org



Phillis Wheatley Historical Society
www.phillis-wheatley.org



WHEATLEY PETERS PROJECT
Why Phillis Wheatley Peters?
wheatleypetersproject.weebly.com

Wheatley Peters Project
<https://wheatleypetersproject.weebly.com>



Other resources I have found:

Writing Self-Review

Describe how you chose your theme and readings

Describe how you organized your essay and why

Describe your rewriting and revision process

Describe the strongest aspect of your project

Describe what you would do if you had more time

Learning Reflection

Reflect on your journey as you learned about Phillis Wheatley and her life and writing. Describe your learning process, how your perspective on her and her work changed or developed, the decisions you made about what to write about, and the most important takeaway you have from this process.

Continue the discussion

Thank you

The Genius of Phillis Wheatley Peters website:
<https://wheatleypetersproject.weebly.com/>

Thank you to the National Writing Project and
The Genius of Phillis Wheatley Peters
for supporting this work.

Contact Me

Feel free to contact me with your thoughts:

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Professor of English
jschreye@dbq.edu