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### The Life of Frederick Douglas: Searching for Parents

This essay will be focused on relationships of Frederick Douglass and its impact of his life choices and the development of his character. The absence of primal family as well as the identity crisis and the further reconstruction of parental relations has great impact of Frederick Douglass's years of adolescence, where he became literate and freed himself from determination as a slave. In this essay there will be provided details of this impact as well as the process itself.

In the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* Frederick mentions his origin. He knows his mother Harriet Bailey, who was a slave, but who was his father was never clear. There were suspicions it was the slaveholder of his mother Aaron Anthony. Frederick was mixed race, which was not unusual (many slaveholders raped their female slaves, as they were their property), but it is possible that he heritage some of his talents such as being well-spoken, great storyteller and overall a great thinker interested in affair, that used to be domain of white Americans from the upper classes, from his father. He was separated from his mother when he was very little, so he never really got a chance to set his identity, Frederick never even knew the exact date of his birth. It was the intention of the slaveholders to keep their slaves as little self-aware and confident as possible because it makes them weaker in spirit.

Before Young Douglass was putted into family of Auld, where he met Mrs. Auld he was given new clean clothes, this gesture has a bigger meaning as Frederick wrote: "The thought of

owning a pair of trousers was great indeed! It was almost a sufficient motive, not only to make me take off what would be called by pig drovers the mange, but the skin itself.” (The Narrative 24) . Sophia Auld was for little Frederick the most important woman, she gave him love and care he could not get from his mother. This lady taught him to read and treated him kindly. She replaced at least some part of the mother figure. From the point where Douglass started to read he gain the needed power.

Since there were no father figures for Douglass all the men in his life were divided on two categories. The weak passive slaves, and the strong cruel masters. However, this changed when he lived on the farm of Mr. Covey. This brute man used to whip his slaves all the time. Once Frederick misbehaved and ran away from his master, he met in the forest Sandy Jenkins. The black man who helped him and gave him special root, the talisman. He then came back to Mr. Covey. Douglas refused to be whipped and decided to fight man to man with his master. Such unusual thing surprised the slaveholder, and he lost the fight with Frederick. From the psychological perspective this affair has great impact of Frederick Douglass rebirth into a man. He gains power and faith in his abilities. From that point he no longer needed a father figure, he became a man himself.

Frederick Douglas has very hard journey full of obstacles. Hence being such strong and driven person as he was, he endured all the wrongs and was able to establish his identity on his own even without stable family. During his early life he met many important people who made him what he is known for today. The woman who supplied for his mother Mrs Auld show him love and affection .The mysterious Afro-American Mr. Jankins gave him courage and protection, with those ground parental gifts Frederick Douglass was able to fight for himself and other enslaved black people.

Works cited

Douglass, F (1845) *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave- written by himself.*