

Name: _____

"Look at me! Ain't I a Woman!"

-Truth

Ain't I a Woman

By Sojourner Truth
(1797-1883)

Speech Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions based on the speech transcript. Answer fully and use citations.

- 1) What can you infer about the historical context of the speech? How do you know?
- 2) Evaluate how Truth opens and closes her speech.
- 3) What were Truth's feelings concerning the traditional roles and status of women?
- 4) Is this speech Truth's summarization of the time period or a critique on it? How do you know?
- 5) Throughout this speech, Sojourner Truth repeats the phrase "Ain't I a woman?" Why do you think she chooses to repeat this?
- 6) What do you believe Truth's claim is in this speech? Where and how does she acknowledge and refute the counterclaim?
- 7) At the end of the speech, Truth says, "Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him." What does she mean by this?
- 8) Truth poses the question, "What does intellect have to do with women's rights or Negroes' rights?". Discuss why she even brings up intellect, and then answer her question.
- 9) Do you believe that Truth is a strong woman? Why or why not? Give at least one example from the speech. Consider the literal and figurative connotations of the word strong.
- 10) Based on today's reading, what thoughts do you have about the essential question, "What is the relationship between strength and adversity?"



Name: _____

"We don't have the full picture of our history."

-Kerri Washington

Ain't I a Woman By Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)

Digital Media Comparison & Analysis

View Kerri Washington's reading and commentary of the speech, and then answer the questions below.

[URL: http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month/videos/aint-i-a-woman](http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month/videos/aint-i-a-woman)

1. How does Washington interpret Truth's body language and voice inflection? Is it an accurate interpretation? Why or why not?
2. What do the primary source images and clips included with Washington's reading of the speech add? Why might the producers have chosen to bring those in?
3. Washington says that many of us have learned a history that is single sided. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why or why not?
4. What did seeing Washington's reading of the speech add to your understanding of the text?
5. Washington says that people are shocked at how much these speeches and texts from centuries ago actually relate to the present. How is that true? How does the central message of this speech relate to today?



Background

Kerry Washington was born on January 31, 1977, in The Bronx, New York City, New York, as Kerry Marisa Washington. She is an actress known for her role in *Scandal* (2012). She has been married to Nnamdi Asomugha since June 24, 2013. They have one child. Washington is the only child of a real-estate agent father and a mother who is an educator. Growing up in the Bronx, she attended the same local Boys and Girls Club of America as Jennifer Lopez. She graduated from the private girls' Spence School in New York City in 1994 where she acted in plays. She accepted into Yale University and Dartmouth College but declined both. Washington studied acting in New York City at Michael Howard Studios. In April 2014, she was one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

