Zane: Focus on Roxy as “bitch” because she seemed ungrateful. Pettigrews…

* Logan: High-strung, sexually assaulted. Enough to be driven over the edge. Threat of death…underfed… comes to the Pettigrews thinking that people will help her.
* Aiden enters.
* Logan: Food.
* Shagena: Pie later?
* Zane: I guess this will do after she gets the pie. Ungrateful for the risk. What killed me is when Bracken came… she says “You promised you’d get me to Liberia.”
* Harrison: Aunt Dorcas put out the buckets, told the slave boy they’d have a safe place.
* Zane: I don’t remember entirely… one farm is 50 miles away from another one.
* Wermes: She went 50 miles to get to the Pettigrew home. She was at the end of her rope. She was expecting an amazing house. She meets Addison, an Uncle Tom. She was disenchanted. She didn’t want to take no for an answer anymore.
* Chase: She wanted to be treated like a human.
* Andrew Smith: They can’t treat her that much like a human. They are helping her…
* Zane: She was given more dignity by the Pettigrews… she wanted more. They were literally risking everything.
* TJ: Hatred should go to Clarissa’s mom.
* Eble: You love the Sheriff.
* Zane: The Sheriff was doing his job.
* Aiden: Sheriff wasn’t doing his job; Bracken was.
* Gruber: We go into a debate on unjust laws. Morals…
* Smith: In war—commander gives an order that’s completely unjust.
* Wermes: Bohne talked about Nuremberg, Vietnam. Then, after silence: Interesting parallel between Bracken and Addison. Bracken: Raised in an environment where he has to live the white man’s law; Addison: Lives the “white life,” tries to find a job / business. Addison makes the wrong decision, Bracken makes the right one.
* Zane: Sheriff—take out the idea of slavery being bad. He was willing to give back their freedoms. He needed insurance. Frank—who jumped in the crick, got caught…the bad egg—needed to have restrictions.
* Smith: Frank wants the same thing… he wasn’t listening to Frank (Addison)
* Gruber: They broke the law, followed their morals (which is illegal). Frank still doesn’t follow the rules. He didn’t sell his brother into slavery until they did what was illegal.
* Smith: He needs insurance.
* Zane:
* Eble: True freedom?
* Zane: Justified to limit Frank.
* Eble: But is he truly free?
* Gruber: But you have to follow the law…
* Zane: Self-preservation…
* Eble challenged.
* Zane: Brother, aunt killed. Implication… whole family into slavery? I weigh that risk… family versus strangers.
* Chase: Was the sheriff making the rules justly. How is him doing what he wants just? He’s against the Pettigrews no matter what…
* Aiden: The sheriff broke the law… More of a tyrant than a sheriff.
* Zane: Making the best out of a bad situation…
* TJ: Letting someone be killed…the last slave had his foot cut off…
* Zane: Challenge…
* TJ: Risk of self being harmed versus letting someone else being killed?
* Zane: Challenge.
* Logan: They’re already in slavery under the sheriff. On a whim, he can tell them what to do, enforce his rule upon them.
* Smith: They shouldn’t live under those rules, rather than risk being killed?
* Gruber: Say they kinda help Roxy, but not house her… that’s probably the best situation.
* Eble challenge.
* Gruber: Well, it didn’t work so well…
* Smith: Speculated best course of action.
* Zane: A more viable option.
* TJ: Seems like the easy way out. Challenged Zane, who challenged back…
* Gruber: Yea, there are cops everywhere…they’ll still be able to find her.
* TJ: if she wasn’t out… she wouldn’t have been caught.
* Smith: Would they have kept in there forever?
* Chase: If you were Addison—focused on yourself—wants to have his own business, he thinks it’s not important to save her. Shared Frank’s perspective…He understands, wants to help the slave. Dorcas—the actress said this in the Q & A—found herself through the letters in realizing that people made it to Liberia.
* Zane: But who supports the family? Addison. Even though his ideas are selfish, if his business gets better, he’ll have more…
* Aiden: But who manipulates his family, sells his brother… really, they’re just slaves? You have a Kurtz mentality. Screw the Africans… Dorcas had an amazing monologue about a little black boy who escaped from the farm. She went to bed…
* Zane: Time period…
* Wermes: That’s why the setting was important—so close to freedom.
* Eble: But there are natural rights, wrongs.
* Zane: Accepted by elderly / middle-aged whites.
* Aiden: That’s why Bracken was there—he has been in love with Dorcas… just trying to do his job.
* Wermes: The point wasn’t to show that slavery is bad. More than one definition of a slave; the freest characters are the ones who come the closest to slavery. Addison to $, Dorcas to tradition, Bracken to the Sheriff. Look at Frank, who just wants to jump in the creek; Roxie just escapes. She doesn’t wear shoes… she’s more free than Addison.
* Zane: I wouldn’t say that Addison is that enslaved. As long as Frank wouldn’t have broken the law…
* TJ: The law is jumping in a creek…
* Wermes: It’s making an argument for freedom… if the law is constricting their freedom, they’re going to break it.
* Zane: Isn’t Addison trying to get his freedom?
* Wermes: On the surface…he’s selling his brother into slavery… he tries to buy slaves… he’ll be like the sheriff. He speaks poorly about them. He’s adding to the problem.
* Chase: He doesn’t realize that his true freedom = let’s close the doors…
* Logan: You’re going under the assumption that Addison is right, he’s doing what’s best for his family. He’s perpetuating what he wants. Argument for personal freedoms. Roxie: They’re playing with your life…
* Zane: If anybody is shackling his brother it’s Frank!
* Wermes: What does it mean to be free?
* Zane: Addison wants to grow his business… but Frank is breaking the law that Addison has accepted. At the end, he’s right where he started.
* Gruber: Roxie and Frank are free because they do what they want—doing what you want doesn’t make you free. We can’t have society.
* Wermes: Backdrop of slavery.
* Aiden: Potentially harming others…
* Wermes: Roxie doesn’t want to
* Eble: True freedom talk.
* Zane: But he can’t achieve his dream.
* Wermes: By the end of the play—he’s a dynamic character—he chooses shoes over his brother.
* Eble: The pause… he recognizes that he’s not
* Aiden: Slaves kick the shoe cart; Frank teaches them to draw. Addison wants to get her a slave, then maybe free her. Clarissa versus Frank. She owes nothing to Addison. She has limited her other options. Frank is basically a slave to Addison. He keeps trying to prove himself so he’s no longer underneath Addison. I want to walk next to you and be your friend.
* Wermes: Clarissa spits on his shoes… symbolically
* Gruber: Slaves don’t have enough coin to fill my jar…
* Eble: Gospel…
* Aiden: Frank works and does charity.
* Gruber: I’m not arguing against charity.
* Wermes: This is sort of taking the easy way—he’s putting his head down, conforming. Conform or be destroyed. Achieving freedom = Liberia. Easy thing = employing slaves on your plantation.
* TJ: Doing this for his family. I totally disagree. He loves feeling above people.
* Eble: Frank does Charlie work.
* Logan: He uses the idea of helping his family as mask.
* TJ: But is he helping Addison?
* Wermes: I don’t understand how you don’t get it…
* Gruber: You’re ganging up on him. There’s no absolute here… I’m trying to
* Eble: There is something of an absolute…
* Zane: He tries to get his business going…
* TJ: Just because he believes this… it isn’t right.
* Chase: If it’s for his family… he should have told them.
* Zane: Yeah, he should have…
* Aiden: He lied to them.
* Smith: Good intentions—gets out of control.
* Eble: Would you read this as Addison as a tragic hero?
* Chase: Doesn’t fit the definition of a tragic figure… reads the exact same paper, with a different response.
* Eble:
* Zane: We need a definition of freedom…
* Eble challenged.
* Zane: Addison = shackled by the laws… before he had to go through this. Naiveté… challenged idea of freedom…
* Eble: We can’t look at the should’s…
* Zane: But Frank would have been better off…
* Logan: You may be taking the story too literally. Addison is doing the most for his family by trying to put bread on the table, but the point of the play is to show the different types of shackles people are put under. Suspend your disbelief. Frank could pursue his own freedoms.

**Discussion devolved into circles.**

We returned some sanity by exploring the “bigger ideas” present in this discussion, bringing in Kohlberg’s Moral Development Stages.

Eble would grade himself as a 1 because he didn’t respect people.