Ain't I A Woman?

By Sojourner Truth

That man over there say
A woman needs to be helped into carriages
And lifted over ditches
And to have the best place everywhere.
Nobody ever helped me into carriages
Or over mud puddles
Or gives me a best place....
And ain’t I a woman?
Look at me
Look at my arm!
I have plowed and planted
And gathered into barns
And no man could heed me...
And ain’t I a woman?
I could work as much
And eat as much as a man--
When I could get to it--
And bear the lash as well
And ain’t I a woman?

I have born 13 children
And seen most all sold into slavery
And when I cried out a mother’s grief
None but Jesus heard me...
And ain’t I a woman?
That little man in black there say
A woman can’t have as much rights as a man
Cause Christ wasn’t a woman
Where did your Christ come from?
From God and a woman!
Man had nothing to do with him!
If the first woman God ever made Was strong enough to turn the world
Upside down, all alone
Together women ought to be able to turn it Rightside up again.

Common Core Anchor Reading Standard 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

❖ Find a sentence in which words mean more than the literal definition. What do you infer that sentence means?

❖ What is the main idea?

❖ What techniques did the writer use to get the idea across?

❖ How does the writer feel about the topic? Why do you think so?

EXCEED: After students analyze this text, they can write their own, using some of the same techniques to create a persuasive poem.