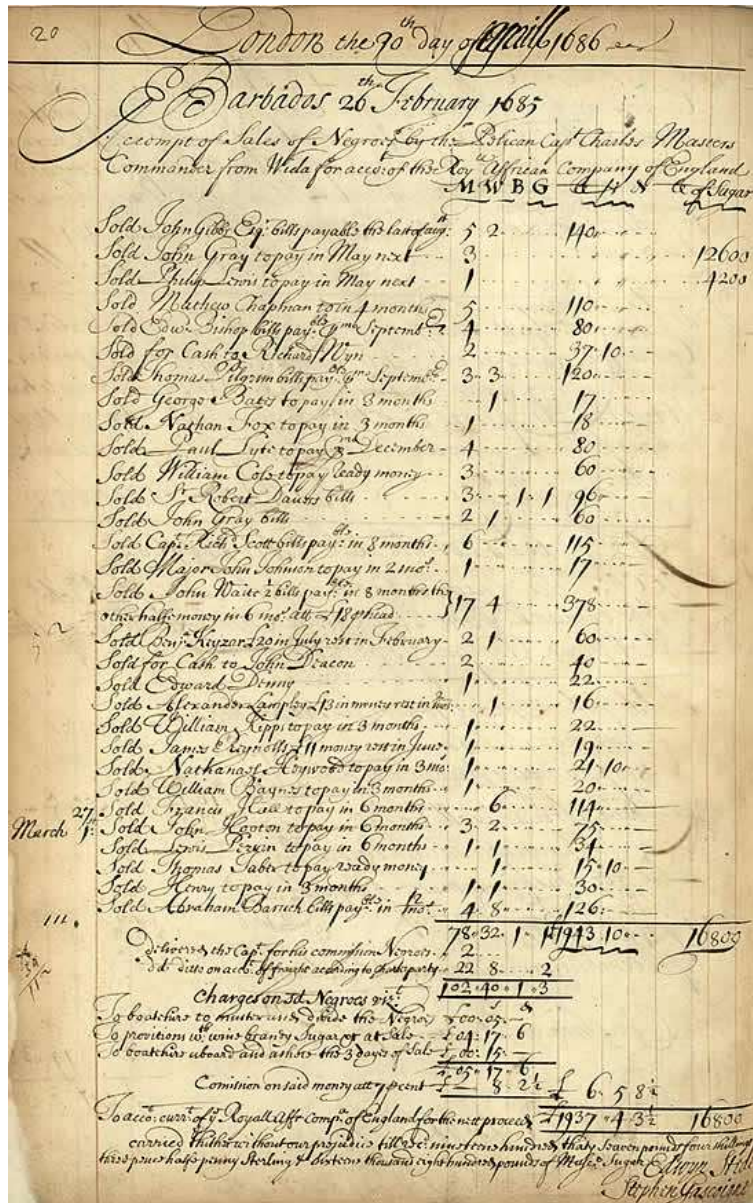


Britain, Slavery and Gothic Fiction

Historical Sources Activity (Tutor Sheet)

Source 1: The Royal African Company

In London, just a few doors down from the headquarters of the *East India Company* stood the headquarters of the *Royal African Company*. This company started off as *The Company of Royal Adventurers*, which received a royal charter from King Charles II in 1660. Its principal aim was to develop the African slave trade and ensure that Britain received its share of the profits.



LONDON the 9th Day of April 1686

Barbados the 26th February 1685

An account of Sales of Negroes by the Sollicitor Capt Charles Massons
Commander from Wida for acc^o of the Roy African Company of England.
M W B G

Sold John Gibb Exp: bills payable the last day.	5	2	110	
Sold John Gray to pay in May next	3			1200
Sold Philip Lewis to pay in May next	1			1200
Sold Mathew Chapman to in 1 month	5		110	
Sold Edward King to pay by 1 st Septemb ^r	4		80	
Sold for Cash to Richard Wynn	2		37 10	
Sold Thomas Harum to pay by 1 st Septemb ^r	3	3	120	
Sold George & Dares to pay in 3 months	1		17	
Sold Nathaniel Fox to pay in 3 months	1		18	
Sold Paul Lyle to pay in December	4		80	
Sold William Colset to pay ready money	3		60	
Sold Sir Robert Daves bill	3	1	96	
Sold John Gray bill	2	1	60	
Sold Capt. Rich ^d Scott bills pay: in 3 months	6		115	
Sold Major John Johnson to pay in 2 mo th	1		17	
Sold John Waite 2 bills pay: in 8 months the one half money in 6 mo th all of Barbados	17	4	378	
Sold Ben ^t Noyce 20 in July 1685 in February	2	1	60	
Sold for Cash to John Deacon	2		40	
Sold Edward Denny	1		22	
Sold Alexander Campbell 13 in months rat in the	1		16	
Sold William Kippi to pay in 3 months	1		22	
Sold James & Wynn 11 money rat in June	1		19	
Sold Nathaniel Aynswood to pay in 3 mo th	1		24 10	
Sold William Baynes to pay in 3 months	1		20	
Sold Francis How to pay in 6 months	6		114	
March 1 st Sold John Raven to pay in 6 months	3	2	78	
Sold John Raven to pay in 6 months	1	1	34	
Sold Thomas Sabie to pay ready money	1		15 10	
Sold Henry to pay in 3 months	1	1	30	
Sold Abraham Darach bill pay: in the	4	8	126	
Delivered the Capt for his commission Negroes	78	32	1	1997 1/2
At rate on acc ^o of 1/100 th according to the charter	22	8	2	
Charges on the Negroes viz:			102 1/2	
To bookbind to make out the Negroes accounts			5	
To provisions in this branch by Sugar for at rate			17 6	
To bookbind aboard and ashore the 3 days of labor			15	
Commission on said money at 4 percent			79 1/2	
To acc ^o current of the Royal Afric ^o Company of England for the next proceed			1997 1/2	16800

carried further in their next journals till the next time hundred thirty seven pounds five shillings and six pence
this price half penny Sterling & sixteen thousand eight hundred pounds of Mass^o Sugar
Stephen Gaudin

This document is from an account book showing slaves obtained in Africa by the Royal African Company and the islands they were delivered to in the Caribbean.

Tutor Notes for Source 1

In 1672, Charles II gave the Royal African Company (RAC) the monopoly of the trade to supply slaves to the British colonies for the next 1,000 years. Over the next 20 years the company exported over 90,000 slaves to the Americas. In the 18th century Britain was mainly interested in Africa as a source of slaves. After numerous petitions from merchants and manufacturers, the RAC lost its monopoly to provide slaves to the British Empire in 1698. They opened the business to independent companies but had to pay high taxes to the British government.

It was estimated in 1796 that "every year about 72,000 slaves are carried from Africa to the West Indies... the Danes carry away about 3,0000, the Dutch 7,000, the French 18,000, the Portuguese 8,000, the English have all the rest." Over 85% of the Africans exported were carried in British ships. Most of these were based in Liverpool.

Really, this source should allow students to understand how the slave trade was embedded in the growth of the Empire and sanctioned by government.

Source 2: The Museum of London Docklands

This museum – opened in 2003 - tells the history of London’s River Thames. The building is an early 19th century Georgian warehouse (built in 1802), which used to house sugar. It is located in the “West India Docks” on the Isle of Dogs.



Tutor Notes for Source 2

The point of this photo is to get students to think about the legacy of slavery in Britain today – the buildings that emerged from the slave trade, and, also, the profits this trade generated in cities like London, Liverpool, Bristol, Lancaster, Manchester – to name a few. If students are able to access the web, direct them to the museum’s website. The website notes the museum’s aim to show how “sugar shaped London”. The novel students will analyse in the second part of the workshop uses the London docks as one of its settings.

Source 3: Extract from *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African. Written by Himself* (1789)

“At last, when the ship had got in all her cargo, they made ready, and we were all put under the deck. The stench of the hold while we were on the coast was so intolerably loathsome, that it was dangerous to remain there for any time, and some of us had been permitted to stay on the deck for fresh air; but now that the whole ship’s cargo were confined together, it became absolutely pestilential. The closeness of the place, and the heat of the climate, added to the number in the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us. This produced copious perspirations, so that the air soon became unfit for respiration, from a variety of loathsome smells, and brought on a sickness among the slaves, of which many died, thus falling victims to the improvident avarice of their purchasers. This wretched situation was again aggravated by galling of the chains, now become insupportable; and the filth of the necessary tubs, into which the children often fell, and were almost suffocated. The shrieks of the women and the groans of the dying, rendered the whole a scene of horror almost inconceivable.”

Tutor Notes for Source 3

This book was published in London in 1789 – a slavery narrative, a travel narrative and the story of the writer’s spiritual journey (to Christianity). It describes the enslavement and eventual emancipation of its writer, Olaudah Equiano. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* played a large role in altering public opinion towards the slave trade in Britain. Equiano was viewed as an authority in relation to the slave trade. His claim to being born in Eboe, now southern Nigeria, and being captured and traded as a child gave him definite credibility. But his credibility came to question in the 1790s in an attempt to destroy the negative opinion on the slave trade. There were rumours that Equiano was born in the West Indies, but these claims were rejected by many as politically motivated.

Source 4: An article from a London newspaper, published on Thursday 16th April, 1789

For the DIARY.
ON THE
ABOLITION
OF THE
AFRICAN TRADE.

Addressed to the Supporters of that alarming Measure.

COUNTRYMEN, reflect a moment on what you are about!—the Sugar colonies, the trade of which is of more advantage to this country than most who talk on the subject are aware of, will soon be lost to us. The capital employed in the culture of the colonies it is said, and I believe truly, to amount to between sixty and seventy millions, two thirds or more of which, belong to the subjects residing in this kingdom. Can England in her involved situation, owing at this moment 240,000,000l. afford to lose so immense a sum? For the lands cannot be cultivated, nor the manufacture of sugar, &c. carried on, without the trade your ill-judged zeal wants to put an end to. Are you prepared with a fund to make up a compensation to the planters, merchants, and thousands of annuitants, whose daily bread depends on the produce of this beneficial commerce with the West India Islands?—You mistakingly treat this business as though you yourselves were not concerned in the event; short sighted must that man be who is so deluded. I have good reason to believe, that nearly one third of the commerce of this kingdom depends on the African trade, directly or collaterally.—If you give up your trade, what must become of your navy, the bulwark of England?—remember that every mariner you lose for want of employment, goes into the scale of rival nations, who have, at this moment, agents fomenting this madness that has spread itself amongst the multitude.—The cry is humanity;—I am free enough to call it the cry of folly and enthusiasm; for supposing all the stories that have been propagated and written upon this subject, for a moment, to be

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This article attempts to persuade its readers of the economic benefits of slavery in the West Indies.

Tutor Notes on Source 4

In the late 1780s, there was a fiery debate in newspapers and magazines on the question of slavery. The West Indies Lobby monitored abolitionist activities in newspapers and magazines and employed

writers of to respond by circulating pro-slavery letters and articles in the same newspapers. Much of the British economy was reliant on the slave trade - both directly and indirectly. Raw produce such as sugar, tobacco, tea, coffee and cotton all came from slave plantations. These foods were widely consumed in British households, served in British shops, coffee and tea houses. Slave grown cotton was made into fabric in British factories and worn by the public. Many people's jobs in ports such as Bristol and Liverpool were reliant on the business created by the slave traders. The economic prosperity created by the trade allowed great country estates and elegant municipal buildings to be built. Many pro-slavery campaigners played on paranoia about empire and indicated that the prosperity of the British Navy, the merchant navy and the Caribbean itself all depended on slavery. Destroy this slavery, they argued, and the British Empire would collapse.

Source 5: Advertisement - "Any persons disposed to buy a Negro" - published 13 September, 1740.

This advertisement from a London newspaper in 1740 reveals attitudes to slaves in Georgian society. Two African children aged just 14 and eight are offered for sale as domestic servants.

The London Daily Post

SATURD

D R U R Y L A N E
By the *Managers*, *Company of Gentlemen*,
At the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane,
This Day will be perform'd a Comedy, call'd
THE STRATAGEM.
The Part of Alcibiades, by Mr. Mordaunt; Anarchy, by Mr. Mills;
Sith, Mr. Mordaunt; Anarchy, by Mr. Mordaunt; Polignol, Mr. T. M.
Clerke; Mr. Mordaunt; Clitus, Mr. Woodcock; Sir Charles
Fiddlers, Mr. Mordaunt; Mrs. Bellin, Mrs. Pritchard; Dorinda, Mrs.
Mills; Lady Rosalind, Mrs. Mordaunt; Goby, Mrs. Bennett;
And the Part of Clitus, by Mrs. Clive.
To which will be added,
The DEVIL TO PAY;
OR,
The Wives Metamorphos'd.
The Part of the *JOHN LOVERWELL* (in which will be introduc'd
the *Body Blow*) to be perform'd by Mr. LOW,
(Who is the first Time of his Appearance on any Stage);
Nell, by Mrs. Clive; Judas, by Mr. Turbett; Lady Loverwell,
Mrs. Bennett; Roder, Mr. Rafter.
Places for the Boxes to be taken at Mr. Bradshaw's, Box-keeper,
of the King's Arms, in Radcliff-street, near the Playhouse.
To begin exactly at 5 a Clock.

The NEW WELLS,
Near the LONDON SPAW, CLERKENWELL,
BEGIN their Diversions, every Day, at
Five o'Clock in the Afternoon; consisting of the greatest Variety
of New Amusements of Singing, Dancing, and Feats of Acrobacy,
that have been hitherto perform'd in any one Season in that
Place. And will exhibit at Seven o'Clock, that celebrated Entertainment,
call'd
A HINT to the THEATRES;
OR,
MERLIN IN LABOUR.
With the Birth, Advancement, Excesses, and Expulsion of
HARLEQUIN.
Also an Addition of **MERLIN'S CAVE**, as in the Royal Gardens
at RICHMOND, by Mr. DEVOTO.
Likewise a new Whimsical Fantastical Amusement, call'd
The HAPPY MILLER Arriv'd;
Or, Let None Despair.
The Whole to conclude with a new Entertainment, call'd
The SIEGE of PORTOBELLO,
With the *Demonstrations* of their Forts and Castles.
With all proper Decorations.

S O U T H W A R K - F A I R.
AT
TEATE'S Great Theatrical BOOTH,
On the Bowling-Green, Southwark,
DURING the Time of Southwark-Fair,
the Town will be elegantly entertain'd with the History of
ORPHEUS, and the Death of EURYDICE.
To which will be added,
The Metamorphosis of HARLEQUIN.
The Part of Orpheus, by N. Cartwright; Eurydice, by Mrs.
Jungall; Rhodope, Mrs. Nicklas; Pluto, Mr. Sturges; Alkidas,
Mr. Marsquire; Nymphe, Mrs. Hill; Harlequin, by Mr. Robinson;
Fanciulla, Mr. Price; *Queen Corcor*, Mrs. Young; Clonus, Mr.
Warren; *Squire Gwendolyn's Mother*, Mrs. Marsquire; the Dwarf, by
Madam Jeffries; *Colombine*, by Mr. Warren.
All the other Parts to the best Advantage.
As the Proprietor has put himself to a great Expence in getting the
Machinery made in the most Perfect Manner, he humbly hopes to be favour'd
with the Company of the Curious.

WHEREAS T. V. has lost Effects of a
considerable Value. That any to certify, that if the Party
concern'd will appear to meet, or by Messengers to agree, they shall
not be hurt or damaged, but if they do not come in five Days from
the Date hereof, shall have a Publication of the Same intimated in the
general Papers, and be liable to the Rigour of the Law.
At witness my Hand, this 12th of September,
T. V.

ANY Person disposed to buy a Negro
Boy or Girl; the Boy about 14 Years old, the Child about
eight years well proportion'd; the Boy is able to wait at a Gentle-
man's Table, the Girl handy in the House, and works with her
Needle.
For further Particulars, enquire of Mr. Samuel Downes, Druggist,
in Deptford.

To be SOLD,

A Good Freehold and inclo'd Estate of
100 l. or 140 l. a Year, more or less, in Surrey, about twenty
Miles from London, with 20 good Right, Common, Customs, and
Privileges, as in any Place whatsoever.
Enquire of Mr. George Hawkins, at Upper Rowford, in Southey
in Middlesex, by the Post or otherwise, and you may know further.

WHEREAS at a Meeting held at the
White-Hart in Whitechapel, on Thursday the 11th of this In-
stant September, in order to consider of what was propos'd to be done
in relation to the County Goal of Osbeck, pursuant to an Advertis-

SADL
For the Benefit
A T SADL
the New-River
The USUAL
Likewise a New Dram
Danceport, Mrs. Wood
The
All a Dance, call'd
N
With a
The whole concluding
The BIR
Or, I
Cordial
ZEPHY
NE. There will be
FREDERICK KERN
Box 2 a. 6
Tickets to be had of
Walk, near the London

GOODN
THE NE
Lovers, &
this Evening, with Vari-
ous, **JANNO**, Mr
And several Entertainments
The Soldier and Sals
With Singing by
A new Pastor
HARLE
Or, **ATRI**
The Part of Harle-
Mrs. Dove; Fencer,
Intermix'd by De
BAUCIS
The Part of Bacchus,
Jupiter, Mr. Blagg;
Cupid, Miss Gower;
by Mr. Gower, Mrs. G.
Kitchenmont, Miss G.
The Storm, Mrs. G.

For the Bene-
A T SADL
the New-River
on Monday next, 1
sing, and several other
KERMAN, just arriv'd
new Grand Dance Port
The last new Grand
A new serious Dance
Ballet, call'd *Folly*, by
various Dances, call'd
by Messrs. Trueman and
With
The Birth of V
With the Lu-
Zephyrus, to 1
Box 2
The Evening's Divers
They who chaf

For the Benefit
Mrs. W
A T S - D L
the New-River
call'd
The USUAL
N.B. There will be
DERICK KERMAN,
All a Tanking, Six
rises and Comic, par-
The *Companions of Time*
by, the Miller, Mr. G.
own Dance by Mrs. Cahn
call'd *Folly*.
The whole Conclude

For the Birth of
With the L
Boxes 2 a.
To be

HIS MAJ
Churchman, 2
making Chocolate an
Respect, than by a
Trial, by its immediate
the Palace, and into
much faster than any
of greater Nutrients

Tutor Notes on Source 5

This should be a fairly easy source for students to decipher and it should prompt them to discuss the dehumanisation of enslaved people. The source also emphasizes the presence of slavery within Britain – slaves weren't just exported to the American colonies. This is important for the analysis of *Coram Boy* later, which features the mistreatment of household slaves in comfortable London homes.