

**GLOSSARY RE: STUDENT HANDOUT 1 – EXCERPTS FROM MOSES ROPER'S WRITINGS AND SPEECHES**  
STUDENT HANDOUT 3

**Hypocrite:** A person who pretends to have virtues, principles, or moral or religious beliefs that he or she does not actually possess – especially a person whose actions are not consistent with what he or she says he believes.

**Irreligious:** Not religious; not practicing a religion.

**Infidel:** A person who does not accept a particular faith, such as Christianity.

**Negro:** A term of Anthropology, no longer in use: "negro" means "black" in Spanish and referred to people especially with dark brown skin who originated in sub-Saharan Africa. The term sometimes referred to anyone of African ancestry even if light-complected, such as Moses Roper.

**Charlestown:** Roper uses this name to refer to the city in South Carolina that is now known as Charleston. It was a major American city in the 19th century. There is also an area of Boston by this name and a city in West Virginia, but Roper's referring to the city in South Carolina.

**Profess:** To lay claim to, often insincerely; to pretend to: "He professed innocence but I think he knew what he was doing."

**Serpent:** A snake. When used to describe a human being, it means a wily, treacherous, or malicious person.

**Pyramids:** In ancient Egypt, a huge tomb constructed of huge blocks of stone; a geometric shape of four sides having smooth, steeply sloping sides meeting at an apex.

**Egypt:** An ancient kingdom in northeastern Africa, divided into the Nile Delta (Lower Egypt) and the area from Cairo south to the Sudan (Upper Egypt).

**Carthage:** An ancient city-state in North Africa, near modern Tunis. It was founded by the Phoenicians in the middle of the 9th century B.C. and was destroyed in 146 B.C. in the last of the Punic Wars.

**Apprehension:** Fear of future trouble or evil; worry about adversity or misfortune. Roper's apprehension was fear of being arrested and forced back into slavery.

**Concealing:** Hiding; keeping something (including oneself) out of sight; covering up. Example: He concealed himself behind bushes.

**Thoroughfares:** Major roads, streets, or highways that lead at each end into another street, road or highway.

**Disguise:** To change appearance in order to conceal one's identity/deceive others about your identity. Example: In the beard and wig, I was able to disguise myself.

**Endowed:** Provided with a quality, ability, or asset. In this reading, Roper is referring to a naturally occurring quality, talent, physical feature, or other advantage.

**Inalienable:** Not transferable to another; cannot be taken away or denied.

**Mansfield:** A city in central England.

**Hoist:** To raise or lift up, especially using some mechanical device. Examples: We hoist a flag. He hoists the sail on a boat.

**Burlesque:** A staged performance designed to amuse and trigger laughter by making fun of "serious" subject matter. It often features extremely silly, foolish, and very funny characters in ridiculous situations – recognizable because they are drawn from real life.

**Circumstance:** Conditions, details and attributes, with respect to time, place, manner, or persons, etc., that accompany, determine, or modify a fact or event. Example: Do not judge his behavior without considering the circumstances.

**Dire:** Causing great fear or suffering; terrible; dreadful.

**Clasp:** A device, usually made of metal, for fastening together two or more things or parts of the same thing. Example: There was a clasp on the necklace. The verb form, to clasp, means to hold together firmly.

**Ardent:** Having, expressive of, or characterized by intense feeling; passionate.

**Interchange:** To cause one thing to change places with another; transpose.

**Caress:** An act or gesture that expresses affection, such as an embrace or kiss – especially a light stroking or touching.

**Elapsed:** Referring to time having passed. Example: Much time has elapsed since I last went ice-skating.