**Winter Break Assignment due 2/28/14 – Read The Diary of Patsy, a Freed Girl: I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly by Joyce Hansen and answer the following questions.**

1. Cook characterizes Patsy in this way: "Patsy don't give no trouble. Just a bit slowful." Interpret what cook means by “slowful”. Justify your answer with textual evidence.
2. Patsy gains confidence as she learns she has some special gifts such as being a good teacher. Looking back over the diary, infer what character traits best represents Patsy as a good teacher? Use evidence to support your answer.
3. One of the traditional arguments that pro-slavery people used to justify their position was that the slaves were dependent on their owners for everything — they could not survive without their Masters and Mistresses. However, Patsy paints a different picture of the strengths and dependencies of plantation owners. Find the textual evidence that indicate that the masters were really more dependent than the slaves.
4. The plantation owners attend St. Phillip's Church, where Father Holmes preaches and reads the catechism. Most of the slaves worship in the bush arbor. Patsy's diary allows us to visit each place. What are the key differences between worshiping in the church and worshiping in the arbor?
5. When Cook tells Ma'am that she is leaving the plantation, she says, "If I stay in this house where I been a slave, I'll never know I'm free." Throughout the book, Patsy wonders if she will also have to leave to be free. Why does Cook believe she cannot be free if she stays at Davis Hall? Why is it so hard for Patsy and the others to leave the plantation? Find evidence in the book to support your ideas.
6. Joyce Hansen, the author of *I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly* says she hopes "...that youngsters, after reading this story, understand the importance of believing in yourself" How do you think Patsy's diary suggests the importance of believing in yourself?