**Amos Fortune, Free Man** from Los Angeles City College Cyber Writing Center

by Elizabeth Yates

Please discuss the following questions pertaining to pp. 2-52 of Amos Fortune, Free Man in small groups. When you have finished we will talk about them as a class.

1. How would you describe the atmosphere in the African village at the beginning of the story? What were the people doing?

2. On pages 9-13 the slave traders come to capture the people. How did this scene make you feel? What do you think you would do in a situation like this?

3. On p. 16 we learn about a person who “was determined to watch the course they were taking so when the time came that they could assert their freedom he would be able to lead his people back to their own village.” Do you think that they will ever get back to their village? Why or why not?

4. How were the At-mun-shi kept while they awaiting their journey to the United States? What were the conditions like?

5. What is happening on pp. 22-25? What is your impression of this scene?

6. What is the Copelands’ attitude towards Amos? Why did they think he couldn’t talk? What was their opinion of him? Did they know anything about Africans?

7. What is Amos’s relationship with the family like? How long did he stay there? How does the author describe his life there?

8. What is the situation with other slaves he knows? Do they get their freedom? Does Amos want to be free? Why or why not? (p.45-6)

9. What was the life of free Blacks like? How was their life different from Whites?

10. On p. 48 the author writes “yet he knew few words of the At-mun-shi remained with him except his own name?” Do you think that this is really possible? would you forget your first language so easily?

11. Why did Amos always go to the port to look at the Africans being brought to New England?

12. What happened to Amos after Caleb Copeland died? What do you think will happen to him now?

13. Finally, what have you learned from these first chapters of the book? What did you like the best? What surprised you?