

**Quaestio:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nunc Agenda:** Read the satirical poem below and answer the questions that follow.

<p>I own I am shocked at the purchase of slaves, And fear those who buy them and sell them are knaves; What I hear of their hardships, their tortures, and groans Is almost enough to draw pity from stones.</p>	<p>Besides, if we do, the French, Dutch, and Danes, Will heartily thank us, no doubt, for our pains: If we do not buy the poor creatures, they will: And tortures and groans will be multiplied still.</p>
<p>I pity them greatly, but I must be mum, For how could we do without sugar and rum? Especially sugar, so needful we see; What, give up our desserts, our coffee, and tea?</p>	<p>If foreigners likewise would give up the trade, Much more in behalf of your wish might be said; But, while they got riches by purchasing blacks, Pray tell me why we may not also go snacks? —<i>William Cowper, 1700s</i></p>

**Vocabulary Clarification**

**Own-** admit

**Knives-** dishonest person

**Mum-** quiet

**Go Snacks-** to share in something

1. Does the speaker in the poem feel bad for slaves? How can you tell?
2. According to the speaker, why is slavery necessary?
3. According to the speaker, if the English (his people) stop trading slaves, will slavery end? Explain.
4. Based on this poem, who do you feel is responsible for the enslavement of Africans? Why?

**Answer the Quaestio:**