Chapter 7, Exercise 1: AAL

This excerpt from Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple* is an example of a text written in AAL. Underline all of the examples of AAL you find.

Dear God,

Mr. ______ finally come right out an ast for Nettie hand in marriage.

But He won’t let her go. He say she too young, no experience. Say Mr. ______ got too many children already. Plus what about the scandal his wife cause when somebody kill her? And what about all this stuff he hear bout Shug Avery? What bout that?

I ast our new mammy bout Shug Avery. What it is? I ast. She don’t know but she say she gon fine out.

She do more then that. She git a picture. The first one of a real person I ever seen. She say Mr. ______ was taking somethin out his billfold to show Pa an it fell out an slid under the table. Shug Avery was a woman.

The most beautiful woman I ever saw. She more pretty then my mama.

She bout ten thousand times more prettier than me. I see her there in
furs. Her face rouge. Her hair like somethin tail. She grinning with her
foot up on somebody motocar. Her eyes serious tho. Sad some.

I ast her to give me the picture. An all night long I stare at it. An now
when I dream, I dream of Shug Avery. She be dress to kill, whirling and
laughing.
Chapter 7, Exercise 2: Gullah

This story is written in the Gullah language. Consult the list of features of Gullah, and underline the instances of it. The modern English translation is provided on the next page to aid your work.

Gullah

Brer Lion bin a hunt, an eh spy Brer Goat duh leddown topper er big rock duh wuk eh mout an der chaw. Eh creep up fuh ketch um. Wen eh git close ter um eh notus um good. Brer Goat keep on chaw. Brer Lion try fuh fine out wuh Brer Goat duh eat. Eh yent see nuttne nigh um ceptin de nekked rock wuh eh duh leddown on. Brer Lion stonish. Eh wait topper Brer Goat. Brer Goat keep on chaw, an chaw, an chaw. Brer Lion cant mek de ting out, an eh come close, an eh say: "Hay! Brer Goat, wuh you duh eat?" Brer Goat skade wen Brer Lion rise up befo um, but eh keep er bole harte, an eh mek ansur: "Me duh chaw dis rock, an ef you dont leff, wen me done long um me guine eat you". Dis big wud sabe Brer Goat. Bole man git outer diffikelty way coward man lose eh life.
Brer Lion was hunting, and he spied Brer Goat lying down on top of a big rock working his mouth and chewing. He crept up to catch him. When he got close to him, he watched him good. Brer Goat kept on chewing. Brer Lion tried to find out what Brer Goat was eating. He didn’t see anything near him except the naked rock which he was lying down on. Brer Lion was astonished. He waited for Brer Goat. Brer Goat kept on chewing, and chewing, and chewing. Brer Lion couldn’t make the thing out, and he came close, and he said: “Hey! Brer Goat, what are you eating?” Brer Goat was scared when Brer Lion rose up before him, but he kept a bold heart, and he made (his) answer: “I am chewing this rock, and if you don’t leave me (alone), when I am done with it I will eat you”.

This big word saved Brer Goat. A bold man gets out of difficulty where a cowardly man loses his life.

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Chapter 7, Exercise 3: SAE to AAL Translation

Translate each SAE sentence into African-American Language (AAL).

1. There isn’t anyone here who can help us.

2. I asked him if we could go.

3. No one can dance the way she does.

4. My mother has had that quilt for a long time.

5. I said you’re not going to any house party!

6. No one has to deal with that.

7. Wow, he is tall!

8. We already finished our homework.

9. That dog had bitten him on the leg.

10. No one said that the girls couldn’t play.