Fitzgerald

Key Ideas Shared in Class discussion of primary source document on abolition:

excerpt from **Angelina Grimké Weld's speech at Pennsylvania Hall and**

**a Description of the Creation and Destruction of Pennsylvania Hall**

* Mob shows that not everyone in the North is against slavery (supports abolition)
  + what is the mob upset about?
    - not for slavery, but even if didn't like slavery - didn't necessarily believe races equal or that races should mix
      * mob gathered after her wedding - did not like mixing of races a wedding
        + had a black minister and a white minister and both black and white guest
    - afraid of freed blacks flooding into north
    - don't like meeting of FEMALE Anti-slavery society, woman is speaking to audience with men
  + Grimke says they are mad because they know that what the abolitionists are saying is true - " . . . I feel that all this disturbance is but an evidence that our efforts are the best that could have been adopted, or else the friends of slavery would not care for what we say and do."
  + enter hall but then leave - want to threaten but not hurt
  + incredible that they destroyed the building after only four days
    - BURN ORPHANAGE FOR BLACK KIDS, TOO!!
  + Mayor blames abolitionists for upsetting mob - but mob is violating free speech and destroying property so he is violating Constitution by not protecting them
* But there are supporters of abolition and they are brave!
  + Even though there is a mob outside, there are 3,000 in the audience!
  + Grimke keeps speaking even though the crowd is smashing windows
    - says that what they are risking is not as bad as what slaves face every day
    - " What if the mob should now burst in upon us, break up our meeting and commit violence upon our persons -- would this be anything compared with what the slaves endure"
  + building had been built with donations from 2,000 people and others helped build
* She says they can't rely on government and the women can't rely on men to end slavery
  + "The great men of this country will not do this work;. . . . [God} hath chosen . . . the weak to overcome the mighty."
  + Mayor blames abolitionists for upsetting mob and firefighters don't save building
    - but mob is violating free speech and destroying property so he is violating Constitution by not protecting them
  + seems like government on the side of slavery - the president sent all those Marines to take that one runaway slave back from Boston to the South!
* She says must act - there is no neutral ground - not acting is the same as supporting the South
  + Still a sin - She says she will "show [the people of the North] their sins of omission towards the slave."
  + like the firefighters not stopping the building from burning, only spraying surrounding buildings, preventing those who do help from doing so by spraying them with houses - doing nothing is wrong
  + She says they need to learn what slavery is so they can be a voice for the slave - tells them to read the book
    - "To work as we should in this cause, we must know what Slavery is. Let me urge you then to buy the books which have been written on this subject and read them, and then lend them to your neighbors . . . . "
  + she writes a book right after this - *Slavery As It Is* - a collection of primary source evidence of the horrors of slavery
* Cool how she slips in women's rights too - because the two did mix - she talks about how they can't vote and have to then write petitions
  + "Especially let me urge you to petition. *Men* may settle this and other questions at the ballot-box, but you have no such right; it is only through petitions that you can reach the Legislature. It is therefore peculiarly *your* duty to petition."