**Excerpt from Nat Turner's Confession to Thomas B. Gray**

Thomas Gray visited Nat Turner during his very first day in jail -- November 1, 1831 -- and before Mr. Gray could even ask a question, Nat Turner began to tell the following story:

“Sir, You have asked me to give a history of the motives which induced me to undertake the late insurrection, as you call it. To do so I must go back to the days of my infancy, and even before I was born. I was thirty-one years of age the 2nd of October last, and born the property of Benjamin Turner, of this county. In my childhood a circumstance occurred which made an indelible impression on my mind, and laid the ground work of that enthusiasm, which has terminated so fatally to many both white and black and for which I am about to atone at the gallows. It is here necessary to relate this circumstance - trifling as it may seem, it was the commencement of that belief which has grown with time, and even now, sir, in this dungeon, helpless and forsaken as I am, I cannot divest myself of. Being at play with other children when three or four years old, I was telling them something, which my mother overhearing, said it had happened before I was born - I stuck to my story, however, and related some things which went in her opinion to confirm it - others being called on were greatly astonished, knowing that these things had happened, and caused them to say in my hearing, I surely would be a prophet, as the Lord had shewn me things that had happened before my birth.”
Questions Relating to the Excerpt Taken from Nat Turner’s Confession

1. What can you infer from Nat Turner’s confession above regarding why he led a violent insurrection which took the lives of many white slave owners and their families?
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2. Given the difficult circumstances in which early 19th century blacks found themselves in Virginia, do you think Nat Turner was justified in leading the deadly uprising? Explain.
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