



Uncle Tom's Cabin

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Teacher's Guide

Written By Mary Kay Wheeler

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Synopsis

Chapter I – In Which the Reader Is Introduced to a Man of Humanity

Mr. Shelby, the owner of a Kentucky plantation is talking with a slave trader named Mr. Haley. Mr. Shelby is in debt and has to sell some of his slaves or lose his land. Although Mr. Shelby is hesitant to sell his prize slave, Tom, he nevertheless is forced to do so. He tells Mr. Haley of Tom's superior qualities hoping he will not have to sell more than one slave to satisfy his debt. To keep Tom from being ill treated by another master he tells Mr. Haley that Tom is an honest man and a good Christian. Mr. Haley says that he needs more than Tom to satisfy his debt and Mr. Shelby is forced to sell Harry, the son of Eliza. Eliza is Mrs. Shelby's beloved maid. Eliza overhears this conversation and is afraid that Harry will be taken from her. She approaches Mrs. Shelby and asks if Mr. Shelby is going to sell her son and Mrs. Shelby, unaware of her husband's financial situation, assures Eliza that he would never allow this to happen.

Chapter II – The Mother

Eliza is married to a mulatto man named George Harris, who lives at a neighboring plantation and is rarely allowed to see Eliza. George's master hires out his slaves to work at the factory where George invented a machine to clean hemp. When George's master learns of his machine he becomes jealous and relegates George to menial tasks. It was while George worked at the factory that he and Eliza met and married. Eliza lost two children and then finally had Harry, of whom she is overly protective. Although George is becoming increasingly frustrated by his vulgar, tyrannical master, Eliza reminds him that they "must obey master and mistress" in order to be Christian.

Chapter III – The Husband and Father

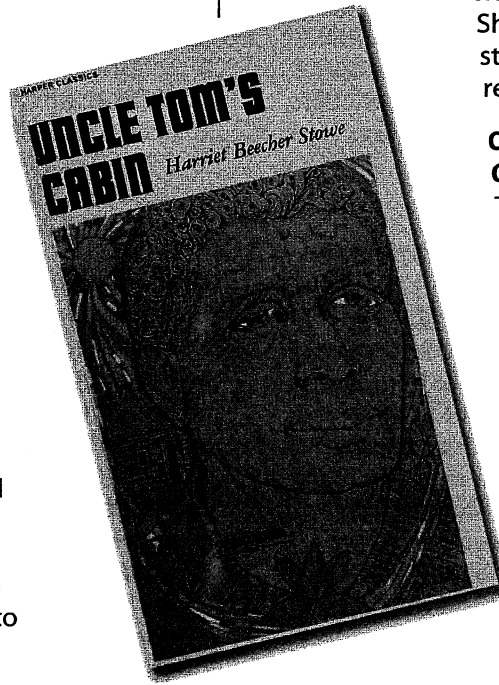
George can no longer endure the treatment of his master. While visiting Eliza he questions his master's authority asking, "Who made him my master? That's what I think of – what right has he to me? I'm a man as much as he is. I'm a better man than he is." With that he tells Eliza he is going to run away to Canada. Once there, he promises to find a way to free Eliza and Harry. Eliza is reminded of the conversation of slave trading she overheard between Mr. Shelby and Mr. Haley and she starts to worry. As they part she reminds George to trust in God.

Chapter IV – An Evening in Uncle Tom's Cabin

The cabin has a beautiful garden that is proudly tended to by Tom's wife, Aunt Chloe. During the summer the garden produces strawberries, raspberries and a variety of vegetables. Tom and Chloe have two sons and a baby girl. Aunt Chloe is cooking dinner while George Shelby, Jr. is teaching Uncle Tom to write. Aunt Chloe is known for her cooking and she invites George Jr. to stay for dinner. After dinner the other slaves arrive for a religious meeting. They sing and Uncle Tom leads them in prayers. The ceremony is full of laughter and merriment but the news of a slave trader being at the Shelby house has unnerved the slaves.

Chapter V – Showing the Feelings of Living Property on Changing Owners

Mr. Shelby has sold Tom and Harry to Mr. Haley in exchange for his debts. Mr. Haley assures Mr. Shelby that he will not sell Tom to a cruel master, but Mr. Shelby is not convinced. Later that night he tells his wife of the sale and she is appalled by his decision. She reminds her husband that he has promised Tom his freedom and that she promised



Eliza to never separate her from Harry. Mr. Shelby explains that Haley held his debts and that he had no recourse but to sell Tom and Harry. Eliza, overhearing this conversation takes Harry and goes to tell Uncle Tom that he too has been sold. She pleads with Tom to leave with them, but he refuses because of the trust Mr. Shelby has in him. Uncle Tom encourages Eliza to leave and she and Harry run away that night.

Chapter VI – Discovery

When Haley arrives the next morning to collect Tom and Harry he is furious to find that Eliza has taken Harry away. He asks that a horse be made ready for him to search for the runaway slaves. Mrs. Shelby tells Sam, one of the slaves, to help Mr. Haley but not to ride too fast. Understanding her meaning, Sam puts a beechnut under the saddle of Mr. Haley's horse. Once Haley mounts the horse the animal throws him and it takes several hours to regroup. This delay has gained Eliza and Harry precious time.

Chapter VII – The Mother's Struggle

Eliza travels north with Harry. She arrives at the Ohio River late the next day and sees "great cakes of floating ice swinging heavily to and fro in the turbid waters." She saw a public house and went to ask if anyone would be taking the ferry across the river that night. The hostess of the tavern offers Eliza a room and while Harry sleeps she gazes through the window at the river, fearing and longing to cross. At the Shelby plantation, Aunt Chloe cooks slowly to further the delay of Mr. Haley's pursuit of Eliza and Harry. Sam and another slave are told to guide Mr. Haley and they trick him into going the wrong way. The search party finally arrives at the river. Sam sees Eliza through a window and makes a loud noise to let her know of their arrival. With that, Eliza grabs the sleeping Harry and runs out of the Inn and onto the icy river, jumping from one chunk of ice to the other till she reaches the other side. Once across, a man she recognizes as Mr. Symmes helps her on to land. On the other side of the river Mr. Haley, Sam, and Andy stood amazed at the sight they had just seen. Sam and Andy, delighted with the outcome, return home to the Shelby plantation laughing as they leave.

Chapter VIII – Eliza's Escape

Unable to cross the river that night, Haley returns to the tavern where he encounters two slave

catchers named Loker and Marks. He strikes a bargain with them and says he will pay them fifty dollars if they catch Eliza and her son Harry. Haley tells Loker that he may keep Eliza but he wants Harry returned to him. On upon arrival at the plantation, Sam and Andy tell of Eliza's miraculous escape causing much joy among the slaves.

Chapter IX – In Which It appears That a Senator Is But a Man Senator Bird has just arrived home with news that a new bill has been passed in the senate that prohibits people to aid runaway slaves. Although her husband voted for the bill, his wife, Mary, feels it is unchristian and that her first loyalty is to the Bible not the state. With assistance from Mr. Symmes, Eliza shows up at the doorstep of Senator Bird and quickly faints. When she awakes she tells the Senator and his wife of her narrow escape. Senator Bird disobeys the law and helps hide Eliza and Harry at the home of Mr. Van Trompe. Van Trompe is a former slave owner who moved to the north and freed all his slaves. He vows to defend Eliza and Harry with the help of his seven sons. Senator Bird gives VanTrompe a ten- dollar bill for Eliza.

Chapter X – The Property Is Carried Off

Haley returns to the Shelby plantation to collect Uncle Tom. Tom is reading from the Bible and says to Aunt Chloe, "I'm in the Lord's hands." Mr. Shelby conveniently leaves for a business trip to avoid seeing Uncle Tom taken away. When Haley shackles Tom's feet Mrs. Shelby assures him that it is unnecessary but he continues to shackle him. As they leave Tom says, "give my love to Mas'r George." When they stop to fit handcuffs to Tom's wrists the blacksmith laments that Tom will be sold down South, because "they dies thar tol'able fast, don't they?" Unexpectedly, Mas'r George arrives and is appalled at the sight of Uncle Tom in shackles. Young George instructs Haley to treat Tom well. He gives Tom a dollar to hang around his neck and vows to bring him home one day. As they drive away Tom feels a warm spot over his heart where young George placed the dollar.

Chapter XI – In Which Property Gets Into an Improper State of Mind

Disguised as a Spaniard, George Harris stops at a tavern in Kentucky and introduces himself as Mr. Butler, of Oaklands, Shelby County. There he meets his old boss, Mr. Wilson, who does not recognize him immediately. George invites Mr. Wilson to join him in his room. There, George tells Mr. Wilson that

he is escaping to Canada and Mr. Wilson cautions George about disobeying the laws of his country. George fires back that this is not his country because a slave does not have the protection of the law and is not free. George vows to fight for his freedom and shows Mr. Wilson the pistols and bowie-knife he is carrying. As Mr. Wilson leaves, George asks him to give his wife, Eliza, a pin and tell her to escape to Canada if she can. Mr. Wilson agrees and says, "Trust in the Lord, George." George questions, "Is there a God to trust in?"

Chapter XII – Select Incident of Lawful Trade

On the trip to the slave market Haley puts Tom in jail for the night. Being an honest person, Tom takes offense at Haley's refusal to believe he would never run away. Before leaving for Louisiana, Haley buys more slaves and they all board the boat headed for the Deep South. On one of the stops, Haley buys another slave, a woman with a ten-month old boy. A stranger on the ship strikes a bargain with Haley and buys the child. In despair, the mother jumps overboard. Tom witnesses the "unutterably horrible and cruel" event.

Chapter XIII – The Quaker Settlement

Eliza and Harry are living in a Quaker settlement in the home of Rachel and Simeon Halliday. One evening Mr. Halliday returns home and asks his wife if Eliza's last name is Harris. He then informs them that a man named George Harris will be arriving that night. Eliza is overcome and falls faint. She dreams that she is reunited with George and awakes to find it is not a dream after all. The next morning Mr. Halliday informs George and Eliza they must wait till night to leave the settlement saying, "Thou art safe here by daylight, for every one in the settlement is a Friend, and all are watching. It has been found safer to travel by night."

Chapter XIV - Evangeline

Uncle Tom and Mr. Haley continue their journey to New Orleans. Tom's, "remarkably inoffensive and quiet character" has won the trust of Haley and he is allowed to go about the boat freely. Tom found solace sitting among the cotton bales reading his Bible. Also traveling on the boat is a rich gentleman named Augustine St. Clare and his five-year-old daughter, Evangeline. "Little Eva" is an angelic child who always dresses in white. Uncle Tom and Little Eva form a bond and Eva tells Tom she will ask her father to purchase him. While loading

wood, the boat makes a sudden movement and Little Eva falls overboard. Tom saw her hit the water and jumped in to rescue her. In gratitude, and with Eva's urging, St. Clare purchases Tom. Eva wants the chance to "make him (Uncle Tom) happy."

Chapter XV – Of Tom's New Master, and Various Other Matters

Augustine St. Clare was one of the twin brothers born to a wealthy Louisiana planter and a Huguenot French Lady. He inherited the plantation from his father and was raised a sensitive and delicate person by his mother. After college he fell in love with a beautiful girl from the North and became engaged. While at home making arrangements for their marriage his letters are returned with a note from her guardian saying she would marry another. Too proud to seek an explanation, he enters a whirl of fashionable society, and within two weeks marries the reigning belle of the season. While on his honeymoon he receives a letter from his former love. She wrote that they had been deceived by her guardian and went on to declare her undying love. He answered, "I am married, all is over. Only forget, - it is all that remains for either of us." St. Clare's wife, Marie, was spoiled by her father and grew to be selfish, possessive, and a hypochondriac. St. Clare brings his cousin, Miss Ophelia, to help run the house and care for Little Eva and his wife. Miss Ophelia is a robust New Englander who undertakes her task with zeal. When St. Clare and Eva arrive home they make Tom the head coachman and Mrs. St. Clare takes to her bed because her husband left her alone too long.

Chapter XVI – Tom's Mistress and Her Opinions

Marie complains to Miss Ophelia about Mammy, an old black woman who sits up nights with her. Marie feels Mammy is selfish because Marie has to work too hard to wake Mammy in order to attend to her needs. Miss Ophelia listens without saying much. Marie goes on that Mr. St. Clare is too easy on the slaves, Tom included. Mrs. St. Clare says that slavery is justified in the Bible and Mr. St. Clare counters that if not for picking cotton, there would be no defense of slavery in the Bible. Mr. St. Clare asks little Eva which way she prefers to live, in Vermont at her uncle's house, or with a full house of servants? Eva innocently and earnestly responds, "O, of course, our way is the pleasantest, it makes so many more round you to love."

Chapter XVII – The Freeman's Defence

Meanwhile, Eliza and George, still living with the Quaker family of Rachel and Simeon Halliday, discuss their plans to escape to Canada. Phineas Fletcher arrives with news that he overheard Tom Loker talking about slaves he was hunting. He said he would return the male to his master who would make an example of him, the woman would be sold in New Orleans, and the boy would be returned to Haley, the trader. While fleeing with Phineas that night they are confronted by Loker, Marks, and others who joined the hunt. George attempts to talk to them but a fight ensues and George shoots Loker. The remaining hunters run off leaving Loker behind. The Quakers and escaped slaves take Loker with them to another Quaker house. Loker was put in a comfortable bed and a woman named Dorcas Stephens dressed his wounds.

Chapter XVIII – Miss Ophelia's Experiences and Opinions

Tom gradually takes over Adolph's job of managing the finances on the St. Clare plantation. He tells Mr. St. Clare that he is good to everyone but himself. Mr. St. Clare promises to stop drinking and going to parties. Miss Ophelia has decided to get the house in order. She enters the kitchen where Dinah, the head cook is sitting. The kitchen looks as if it had been "arranged by a hurricane blowing through it." She questions Dinah as to the whereabouts of utensils, rags, vegetables, and linens. She found Dinah to be "Shif'less!" Miss Ophelia is critical of Mr. St. Clare as well. She advises him to better manage his slaves. Prue, a slave from down the road arrives with a basket of hot rolls on her head. She is saying she wishes she were dead. Tom offers to carry her basket home for her. Prue tells Uncle Tom that her last child died because her milk dried up when she had to care for her sick mistress. Tom implores her to stop drinking and find the Lord. When he returns he meets Eva and he tells her Prue's story.

Chapter XIX – Miss Ophelia's Experiences and Opinions, Continued

A few days later another woman brought the rolls to the plantation and told Dinah that Prue got drunk again and her master beat her to death. Upon hearing this Miss Ophelia went to Augustine and asked if something couldn't be done. St. Clare explained that slaves were property and "if people choose to ruin their own possessions, I don't know what's to be done." Miss Ophelia berates her

cousin for condoning slavery. He denies that he supports slavery and tells her that when his father died he left the plantation to him and his twin brother to run. After a while he could not stand being a master of a huge plantation and owning hundreds of slaves. He tells Ophelia about a runaway slave that Alfred sold to him. He took him in and "had a good bed made for him, dressed his wounds, and tended him myself." After two weeks he tamed him and had free papers drawn up for him. The slave tore the papers up and pledged his life to him. Augustine became sick with cholera and the slave died after nursing him back to health. Augustine "never felt anybody's loss more." Upon hearing this Little Eva burst into tears and hugged her father. Tom is becoming homesick and with the help of Little Eva he writes a letter to his wife.

Chapter XX – Topsy

St. Clare purchases a slave girl for Miss Ophelia's "department." St. Clare instructs Topsy to perform for Miss Ophelia and the sight of the child twirling and clapping appalls Miss Ophelia. Miss Ophelia questions St. Clare about what to do with the "heathenish" child and he reminds her of her Christian beliefs. Ophelia agrees that "it might be a real missionary work," and takes charge of her. While bathing Topsy, Miss Ophelia sees the welts on her back and is moved. She dresses her to look more Christian. When Miss Ophelia questions Topsy about her age, who are her parents are and if she has heard about God, Topsy just looks bewildered and smiles. While instructing Topsy on making a bed, the girl steals a ribbon and a pair of gloves. Miss Ophelia sees the ribbon sticking out of Topsy's sleeve and asks where she got it. Topsy denies stealing the ribbon and the gloves, but to mollify Miss Ophelia she lies about stealing Eva's necklace and Rosa's earrings saying, "I couldn't think of nothin' else to 'fess." Miss Ophelia asks what Topsy can do and she replies, "Fetch water, and wash dishes, and rub knives, and wait on folks." When Little Eva enters the room Miss Ophelia notices the stark differences between the children. "They stood the representatives of their races. The Saxon, born of ages of cultivation, command, education, physical and moral eminence; the Afric, born of ages of oppression, submission, ignorance, toil, and vice!"

Chapter XXI – Kentuck

Back on the Shelby farm, Aunt Chloe receives a letter from Uncle Tom saying how anxious he is to return home. Mrs. Shelby asks her husband about buying Tom back. Mr. Shelby is still in debt and he loses his temper telling her to stay out of his business. Mrs. Shelby offers to raise the money herself and he refuses to go along with the idea. Chloe asks Mrs. Shelby if she can work to raise the money for Tom's return and Mrs. Shelby gives her blessing.

Chapter XXII – "The Grass Withereth – The Flower Fadeth"

Two years have passed at the St. Clare plantation. Tom receives a letter from Master George telling of Aunt Chloe's success making pastries and of the money she has earned. Tom admires the letter so much he wants to frame it. The St. Clare family moves to Lake Pontchartrain to get away from the summer heat. Little Eva and Uncle Tom have become very close and he brings her little gifts of flowers and fruit. Little Eva tells Tom that she is going to heaven soon. Tom realizes that Eva has grown weaker and thinner and that her cough persists. Even though St. Clare is becoming increasingly anxious about Little Eva's health and tells Miss Ophelia, "O! nonsense of that cough! –it is not anything. She has taken a little cold, perhaps." Little Eva wants to sell her mother's jewels to educate the slaves and her mother dismisses her with a laugh.

Chapter XXIII – Henrique

St. Clare's brother, Alfred, visits Lake Pontchartrain with his son, Henrique. Although they are twins they are opposite in features and attitudes. After observing Henrique whip Dodo, his servant, St. Clare and his brother argue about slavery. Little Eva is shocked at the sight of Henrique hitting Dodo and asks Henrique to be kind to the slave. Henrique gives Dodo money to buy candy and Little Eva thanks Dodo for holding her horse. Her kind words mean more to him than the money. After returning from their ride Little Eva is flushed and must rest on the couch. She asks Henrique to love Dodo and he promises to do so saying, "I could love anything, for your sake, dear Cousin; for I really think you are the loveliest creature that I ever saw!"

Chapter XXIV – Foreshadowings

Little Eva's health declined quickly after Henrique and Alfred leave. Although Mrs. St. Clare believes no one suffers as much as she has, she now realizes how ill Little Eva is and declares, "she always felt it,

that she was destined to be the most miserable of mothers." She now scolds and fusses with more energy than ever over this new burden she must endure. Little Eva tells Uncle Tom that she would be, "glad to die, if my dying could stop all this misery." St. Clare is overwrought with Eva's talk of dying and promises to free Tom after she dies and to follow her to heaven. When she is ready for bed, St. Clare cradles her in his arms and sings to her till she falls asleep.

Chapter XXV – The Little Evangelist

Sunday afternoon Marie and St. Clare are sitting on the verandah and Marie is complaining about another ailment. Little Eva and Miss Ophelia return from church and Miss Ophelia finds Topsy has cut up a hat to make clothes for a doll. Miss Ophelia tells St. Clare she can no longer put up with Topsy. St. Clare reminds Ophelia that missionary work requires saving more than one poor slave. Little Eva and Topsy go off to a glass room where Eva tells Topsy to be good for her sake. Eva says that Miss Ophelia would love her if she were good and Topsy says no body would love her and that Miss Ophelia can't stand to touch her because she is black. St. Clare and Ophelia overhear the conversations and Ophelia admits that she is prejudiced. Eva tells Topsy that God loves her and puts her hand on her shoulder and with that a "ray of real belief, a ray of heavenly love, had penetrated the darkness of her heathen soul." Miss Ophelia didn't realize that Topsy could tell how she felt and wishes that Eva could help her shed her prejudices.

Chapter XXVI – Death

Eva lay dying and asks Miss Ophelia to gather the slaves and to cut curls from her hair to be given to each as a remembrance. Eva talks with her father about being a good Christian and St. Clare finds it difficult to believe or to deal with her death. Tom takes St. Clare's hand and looks to heaven. As Eva takes her last breath St. Clare asks what she sees and she and she say, "O! love, - joy, - peace!"

Chapter XXVII – "This Is the Last of Earth" – John Q. Adams

The house is in mourning. Because of Marie's complaining and incessant demands the slaves have no time to mourn themselves. Mr. St. Clare is distraught over Little Eva's death and tells Tom, "the whole world is as empty as an eggshell." Tom tells St. Clare that he would die for him if only he would become a Christian. Through Tom's faith, St. Clare starts to believe.

Chapter XXVIII – Reunion

St. Clare realizes that his life was lived around Little Eva and everything he did was for his little girl. He grew closer to Tom and became dissatisfied with his treatment of the slaves. He decides to set Uncle Tom free telling him to "get ready to set out for Kentuck." Tom refuses to go saying, "Not while Mas'r is in trouble." St. Clare tells Tom to go home to his wife and children and give them his love. Miss Ophelia asks that St. Clare legally hand over Topsy to her so that she may send her North to be free. She makes him transfer the deed immediately and is witnessed by Marie. Ophelia questions St. Clare about his provisions for his other slaves and he assures her he will attend to it one day. St. Clare leaves for town and enters a café where a fight ensues and he is stabbed while trying to break up the fight. A physician is called and St. Clare is revived. He tells Tom that he is dying and asks Tom to pray. Just before he dies he opens his eyes and says "Mother!"

Chapter XXIX – The Unprotected

Mrs. St. Clare has notified her lawyer and brother-in-law of her husband's death. She decides to sell the plantation and most of the slaves. Miss Ophelia tries to intervene on behalf of Rosa, who is being sent to the whipping master, unheard of on the plantation before, and for Tom, who had been promised his freedom by St. Clare. Marie refuses to abide by her husband's wishes and all hope is lost for the slaves. They are sent to the slave warehouse for auction.

Chapter XXX- The Slave Warehouse

Although outwardly decent looking, the warehouse is used to hold slaves for auction. Tom, along with Adolph, and the remaining slaves from the St. Clare plantation are housed with other slaves. Among these are Susan and her beautiful daughter Emmeline. Susan spends an uneasy time afraid that she and Emmeline will be sold to different masters. Susan tells Emmeline to straighten her curls so that she will not be as noticeable at the sale. Mr. Skeggs, the keeper of the warehouse, tells Emmeline to put the curls back in her hair saying, "Them curls may make a hundred dollars difference in the sale of her." Susan is sold to a man with a "benevolent countenance." Emmeline and Tom are bought by the evil looking Simon Legree.

Chapter XXXI – The Middle Passage

On the boat the "Pirate" Legree chains Tom and takes all his possessions. Legree tells Tom to remove his clothes and gives him rags in exchange. As Tom changes his clothes he hides his Bible in his pocket. Finding Tom's hymnal, Legree says, "I'm your church now!" While at the bar having a dram, Legree tells a gentleman that he tolerates nothing from slaves and that he does his own overseeing. He shows the gentleman his fist and has him feel it. The gentleman says, "Tis hard enough; and, I suppose," he added, "practice has made your heart just like it."

Chapter XXXII – Dark Places

Legree forces the slaves to sing on the way to his plantation. Legree tells Emmeline that they will have "fine times," and she is terrified by his words. The plantation is desolate. Arriving at the plantation the group is met by Sambo and Quimbo. Legree has put them in charge of the slaves and trained them to be as cruel as his dogs. Tom dreams that night of Eva and Lake Pontchartrain and feels her warmth and comfort.

Chapter XXXIII – Cassy

Although Legree was impressed by Tom's ability he secretly disliked him. Tom's tenderness toward his fellow slaves endeared him to them, but brought out jealousy in Legree. One morning Tom noticed a woman he had not seen before in the fields picking cotton. She had a face that "once seen, could never be forgotten." The woman, seeing Tom add cotton he had picked to another older woman's basket, adds some of what she picked to his basket. Cassy warns Tom that "When you've been here a month, you'll be done helping anybody; you'll find it hard enough to take care of your own skin!" Sambo and Quimbo witness the exchange of cotton and tell Legree. Legree decides to break Tom in by making him flog the old woman. Tom refuses and Legree has Tom flogged within an inch of his life.

Chapter XXXIV – The Quadroon's Story

That night Cassy brings Tom water and tends to his wounds. She tells Tom to give up. He argues that giving in would be the true evil. Cassy tells Tom her story. She was brought up in luxury with the mulatto daughter of a wealthy man. She was educated in a convent where she learned French, music, and embroidery. After her father died his wife took their children away and left Cassy as part

of the plantation to be sold. The lawyer left to sell the lot brought a young man with him who professed his love for her. She became his willingly, for she loved him also. Without her knowing, Henry had purchased her for two thousand dollars. They had two children, Henry and Elise. Henry's cousin, Butler, arrived one day and began taking Henry to gambling houses. Henry's debt mounted as he fell in love with another woman. Butler offered to buy Cassy and the children and Henry sold them. Cassy had no choice but to go with Butler and during that time he sold her children. One day Cassy finds little Henry as he is being sent to the calaboose to be whipped, she ran home and pleaded with Butler to intervene. He refused and she lunged at him with a knife. The next thing she knew she awoke in unfamiliar surroundings. A black woman was caring for her and she learned she was brought there to be sold. A gentleman named Stuart bought her. Captain Stuart had a splendid plantation and was kind to her and promised to buy back her children. They received word that little Henry was sold and never heard of again, and Elise was being kept by a black woman. Stuart offered a great sum for Elise, but Butler found out it was for Cassy and said he would never let Cassy have her. Within the year she had a child with Stuart. Because of her fear of losing another child, Cassy poisoned him. When Captain Stuart died from Cholera, Cassy was passed from man to man till she was bought by Legree and brought to his plantation.

Chapter XXXV – Tokens

Cassy had an emotional hold over Legree that he could not explain. As Legree and Cassy argue Sambo comes in holding a paper in his hands. From it drops a silver dollar and a golden lock of hair. As Legree takes the hair it wraps around his finger as if it were alive. Legree screams in horror and throws it in the fire. The lock of hair reminds him of his loving mother. She raised him as a Christian and a loving person but his father was unkind and unloving and Legree followed in his footsteps. Legree left for a life at sea and one day received a note with a lock of hair in it that twined around his finger. The note said that his mother had died and that she forgave him. He burned the note and the hair and when he saw them "hissing and crackling in the flame, shuddered as he thought of everlasting fires." The memories leave Legree unsettled and he decides to find Emmeline. As he climbs the stairs he hears singing, "O there'll

be mourning, at the judgment-seat of Christ." With fear he turns away and wonders "if hair could rise from the dead." Legree calls Sambo and Quimbo to help cheer him. As Cassy looks through the window at the scene she wonders if it "would be a sin to rid the world of such a wretch?"

Chapter XXXVI – Emmeline and Cassy

Cassy finds Emmeline sitting in the darkest corner of the room. Emmeline is relieved to find it is Cassy and says that she wants them to run away to the swamp. Cassy tells her that Legree would find them and the punishment would be too much to endure. Cassy tells Legree to leave Tom alone and that it is foolish to ruin the strongest slave during the heaviest crop season. Legree goes to Tom and demands Tom to beg forgiveness. Tom refuses saying "I did only what I thought was right." Tom promises to be a true and faithful slave. Legree says he will make Tom give up and threatens to settle the score at a later, more convenient time. Cassy warns Tom that he now has Legree's ill will upon him.

Chapter XXXVII - Liberty

While Tom is left in the hands of Legree we return to George and Eliza. Tom Loker awakes in the care of Aunt Dorcas. After three weeks under her care he has a change of heart and becomes more sympathetic to George and Eliza's plight. He warns Aunt Dorcas that there will be people looking for the couple in Sandusky. He says to "tell 'em to dress her up some way, so's to alter her." Eliza cuts her hair and disguises herself in men's clothing while little Harry is dressed like a girl. On the boat George is standing in the captain's office when he overhears two men talking. Marks is with the boat clerk who tells him that he has watched each person board the boat and that the little family is not among them. George finally relaxes when he sees Marks leave and the boat takes them safely away to freedom.

Chapter XXXVIII – The Victory

Tom was returned to the fields long before his wounds healed. Legree degraded and aggravated Tom daily. Tom would return after a grueling day and try to read his Bible. He began to doubt the words of his Bible would continue to inspire him and that they had lost their power. Legree found him reading one night and tempted Tom to throw the book in the fire and join his church. Tom told him he would hang on and Legree threatened that

he would bring him down. As Legree continues his harassment, Tom has a vision of Christ and a renewal of joy and courage. Legree realizes that God is standing between him and his slave. Cassy comes to Tom and wants help in killing Legree while he sleeps. Tom refuses and tells her to try to escape with Emmeline. Cassy wants Tom to come along but he refuses saying he must stay with the others and help them. Although Cassy has long thought of escape it isn't till now that she thinks of a possible plan.

Chapter XXXIX – The Stratagem

Cassy's plan involves the garret that was once occupied by a slave. Legree tortured and kept the slave tied up in the garret as punishment till she died. Since that time the garret was thought to be haunted by all including Legree. Knowing that Legree is superstitious and won't go near the garret she begins to store food and supplies. One night she and Emmeline, in full view, run from the house into the swamp. Legree offers five dollars to anyone who finds them. As the hunt starts she and Emmeline circle back to the house. Before climbing to the garret, Cassy takes money from a desk to pay for their passage. Up in the garret, Emmeline and Cassy watch as they return from the hunt.

Chapter XL – The Martyr

Legree saw a light in Tom's eyes when he first told the slaves about the escape and believes Tom knows something about it. When the hunt ends unsuccessfully the next day, Legree decides to take it out on Tom. Legree threatens to kill Tom unless he tells him what he knows. Tom admits he knew about the escape and where Cassy and Emmeline are hiding but would rather die than tell. Tom is beaten till he faints. Legree instruct Sambo and Quimbo to continue beating Tom till he gives up. The overseers tell Legree that Tom is done. Legree leaves and they lay Tom down. Certain they have done an evil deed they ask Tom about Jesus and ask him to forgive them. Tom prays to Christ for their souls.

Chapter XLI – The Young Master

The letter from Ms. Ophelia to Mrs. Shelby was accidentally delayed at a remote post office. When it finally arrived, Mrs. Shelby and young George were busy settling the late Mr. Shelby's estate. Their inquiries to the lawyer who settled Mr. St. Clare's estate leads nowhere. Months later George meets

a man who has information about Tom's whereabouts. George unfortunately reaches Legree's plantation two days after Tom's beating. Near death Tom is happy to see George and know that he wasn't forgotten. Tom dies and George buries his body in a shady knoll. The slaves who help bury Tom's body beg George to buy them. Before leaving George hits Legree and threatens to have him charged with murder. Without any white witnesses George realizes it would be impossible. Leaving he swears to help abolish slavery.

Chapter XLII – An Authentic Ghost Story

Cassy and Emmeline leave Legree's plantation the next morning. Cassy is dressed as a Creole Spanish lady and Emmeline as her servant. They find themselves on the same boat as George. George seems to recognize her. Cassy takes him into her confidence and tells him her story. George has sympathy for anyone who has survived life with Legree and comes to her aid. Also on the boat is a French woman named De Thoux. Madame de Thoux questions George about where he is from and believes that George Harris is her brother. She tells George that she was sold into slavery and bought by a gentleman who took her to the West Indies, set her free, and married her. George tells Madame de Thoux about her brother and his wife. Cassy is also listening and after hearing about George Harris's wife, faints with the realization that his wife, Eliza, could be her daughter.

Chapter XLIII – Results

George sends the bill of sale of Eliza to Cassy. George and Eliza are living in Montreal, Canada. George is a machinist and the family has grown with the birth of a daughter. Madame de Thoux, Cassy, and Emmeline leave for Canada and are aided by the pastor at the Amherstberg station. There is a tearful reunion with Cassy confusing little Eliza as her daughter. Madame de Thoux reveals that her husband left her a great deal of money and offers it to the family. They all move to France where George continues his education. They return to the United States and from there they move to Liberia. Miss Ophelia took Topsy to her home in Vermont where she was baptized, became a Christian, and later became a missionary in Africa. Madame de Thoux made inquiries and discovered that Cassy's son escaped to the North where he received an education and would soon follow his family to Africa.

Chapter XLIV – The Liberator

Upon returning home George is greeted by his mother and Aunt Chloe. George tells Chloe of Uncle Tom's death and his last words of love to her. Chloe takes the money she earned for Uncle Tom's freedom and breaks down, sobbing on Mrs. Shelby's shoulder. One morning George calls all the servants together and sets them free. Many say they don't want to leave and George tells them they are welcome and from then on they will be paid for their work. George reminds them of Uncle Tom and tells them of his promise to Uncle Tom to never own another slave. He says, "Think of your freedom, every time you see Uncle Tom's cabin."

Chapter XLV – Concluding Remarks

In the final chapter Ms. Stowe is declaring that many of the incidents that occurred in the novel were taken from her own observations or those of her personal friends. The incident of the mother crossing the Ohio River is a well-known fact. The character of Legree came from a story told to her by her brother who visited a plantation owner who "actually made me feel of his fist, which was like a blacksmith's hammer, or nodule of iron, telling me that it was 'calloused with knocking down niggers.' When I left the plantation, I drew a long breath, and felt as if I had escaped from an ogre's den." Ms. Stowe scolds saying both the "North and the South have been guilty before God; and the Christian church has a heavy account to answer." She appeals to all to end slavery.

Timeline

Slavery and its legacy became a complex problem in America. The circumstance of servitude and the status of African people were at stake prior to the Civil War. Defining the legal grounds of those of African descent put America in a sticky situation. Would free Africans be allowed to live in this democracy? During the years between 1800 to 1865, racial differences and the condition of servitude became fundamentally divisive issues.

- 1800** Gabriel Prosser attempts a slave rebellion in Virginia.
- 1807** British Parliament stops shipping and trading African slaves.
- 1808** Congress of the United States made it illegal to bring slaves into the country. Still, the smuggling of Africans continued. Slave trading within the states continued until Emancipation Day in 1863.

- 1812** The British offer Africans free land if they fight with them against American colonists in the war of 1812.
- 1819** Canada refuses the American government access to pursue escaped slaves living in Canada.
- 1820** The Missouri Compromise. Missouri enters the Union as a slaveholding state and Maine as a freebearing state. The Missouri Compromise kept the number of free states and slave states balanced.
- 1822** Denmark Vessey arrested for planning a slave rebellion in South Carolina.
- 1831** Nat Turner leads a slave rebellion in Southampton, Virginia.
- 1833** The American Anti-Slavery Society was established in Philadelphia, PA. The British Parliament abolished slavery throughout the British Empire during this year.
- 1839** The *Amistad* insurrection.
- 1850** The Compromise of 1850 again considered the issue of slavery. California entered the Union as a free state. New Mexico, Utah, and Texas were given the choice to be a slave or a free state. The Fugitive Slave Act was put into effect.
- 1852** Harriet Beecher Stowe published her novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a major influence for the Anti-Slavery Movement.
- 1854** The Dred Scott Case, in which the Supreme Court ruled slaves or descendants of slaves were not U.S. citizens, and therefore could not sue in court.
- 1859** John Brown broke into the Federal Armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia.
- 1860** Abraham Lincoln is elected president.
- 1861** Formation of the Confederate States of America.
- 1861–1865** The Civil War.
- 1865** February 1, 1865, Congress ratifies the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery. Two months later John Wilkes Booth assassinates Lincoln on April 15, 1865; shortly after the Union had defeated Confederate forces and ended the Civil War.

Author Sketch

Harriet Beecher was born June 14, 1811 in Litchfield, Connecticut. She was the seventh child born to Congregational minister Lyman Beecher and Roxana Foote Beecher.



Harriet worked as a teacher and one of her earliest works was a geography for children, written under her sister's name in 1833. Harriet married Calvin Stowe in 1836 and had seven children. She helped support her family by writing for local and religious periodicals. Her works include poems, travel books, biographical sketches, children's books, and adult novels.

Although she wrote many adult novels she is best known for her first, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Stowe drew on personal experience in writing the novel. Living across the Ohio River in Cincinnati, Ohio, from the slave state Kentucky, made Stowe acutely aware of slavery, the anti-slavery movement, and the Underground Railroad. After the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Stowe became a celebrity and began speaking against slavery across America and in Europe. When visiting President Lincoln he greeted her as "the little lady who made this big war." During her life she corresponded with other luminaries including Lady Byron, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and George Eliot. She died on July 1, 1896 at age 85, in Hartford, Connecticut.

Critic's Corner

Uncle Tom's Cabin drew criticism as being inauthentic from critics of the time. In response she wrote *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* documenting the realities which she based the novel. Modern critics argue that the novel indulges in romanticized Christian sensibility and finds little sympathy or credibility with today's readers. Stowe's antislavery writings have taken the focus away from her work's literary significance. She is regarded as an effective realist with accurate settings and details. Her use of local dialect precedes Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* by thirty years. Stowe was inducted into The Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.

Other Works by the Author

- The Two Alters* (1851)
- A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1853)
- The Christian Slave* (1855)
- The Dred; A Tale of the Great, Dismal Swamp* (1856)
- Pogonuc People: Their Loves and Lives* (1878)
- "A Reply to the Address of the Women of England" (Atlantic, 1863)
- "Sojourner Truth, The Libyan Sibyl" (Atlantic, 1863)
- "The Parson's Horse-Race" (Atlantic, 1878)
- "The Education of Freedmen" (North American Review, 1879)
- "The Modern Martyrdom Of St. Perpetua" (Atlantic, 1879)

Bibliography

- A Nation in Crisis: The slavery Timeline
www.cwpost.liunet.edu/cwis/cwp/library/aaslavry.htm#timeline
- A Celebration of Women Writers
<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/stowe/StoweHB.html>
- Harriet Elizabeth Beecher Stowe
http://www.east-buc.k12.ia.us/00_01/WH/loc.htm
- Harriet Beecher Stowe
<http://www.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/stowe.htm>
- Women's History
<http://womenshistory.about.com/od/stowe-works/>

General Objectives

1. To assess the value of foreshadowing in a complex novel
2. To describe relationships between plantation owner and slave, slave parents and their children
3. To evaluate themes of motherhood
4. To assess the main character's personality
5. To recognize the novel's themes
6. To sympathize with the main character's plight
7. To find examples of compassion
8. To express the abolitionist's outrage at slavery
9. To characterize separation, grief, and loss
10. To compose a list of major events in chronological order

Specific Objectives

1. To understand the evils of slavery
2. To understand the social and political realities of the 1850's
3. To assess Uncle Tom's value to the plantation, family, and other slaves
4. To assess the value of Little Eva and Simon Legree and what they represent
5. To comprehend the incompatibility of slavery and Christian values
6. To understand the symbolism of Uncle Tom's cabin
7. To understand and evaluate Eliza's leap across the Ohio river
8. To understand the Christian symbolism and its importance to the novel
9. To enumerate ways in which slavery harms society
10. To compare and contrast different relationships

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Harriet Beecher Stowe's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

characterization the different ways an author tells readers about characters. Writers can tell about characters directly or let readers reach their own decisions about a character indirectly through the comments, thoughts, and actions of the characters. Stowe uses both direct and indirect characterization to show good and evil in her characters.

conflict a struggle or fight. In literature, there are two kinds of conflict. In an external conflict, characters struggle against a force outside themselves. In an internal conflict, characters battle a force within themselves. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* has strong external conflict of slavery, and the internal conflict of keeping one's faith.

historical fiction a story based on real events. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* takes place during a time in American history when slavery was permitted. Although all the characters are fictional many of the events in the story are based on actual historical accounts. For example, the slave auctions described in the novel actually occurred.

Cross-Curricular Sources

Books

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
 Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*
 Alex Haley, *Roots*
 Harriet A. Jacobs, *Incident in the Life of a Slave Girl*
 Anne Frank, *Diary of Anne Frank*

DVDs and Videos

Uncle Tom's Cabin (1987)
Beloved (1999)
Diary of Anne Frank (1959)
Roots (1991)
The Color Purple (1985)

Audio

Beloved
Diary of Anne Frank

Internet

Unchained Memories: Slave Narratives and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2958.html>

Black History Month

<http://html.ibsys.com/sh/news/idi/bhm/index.html>

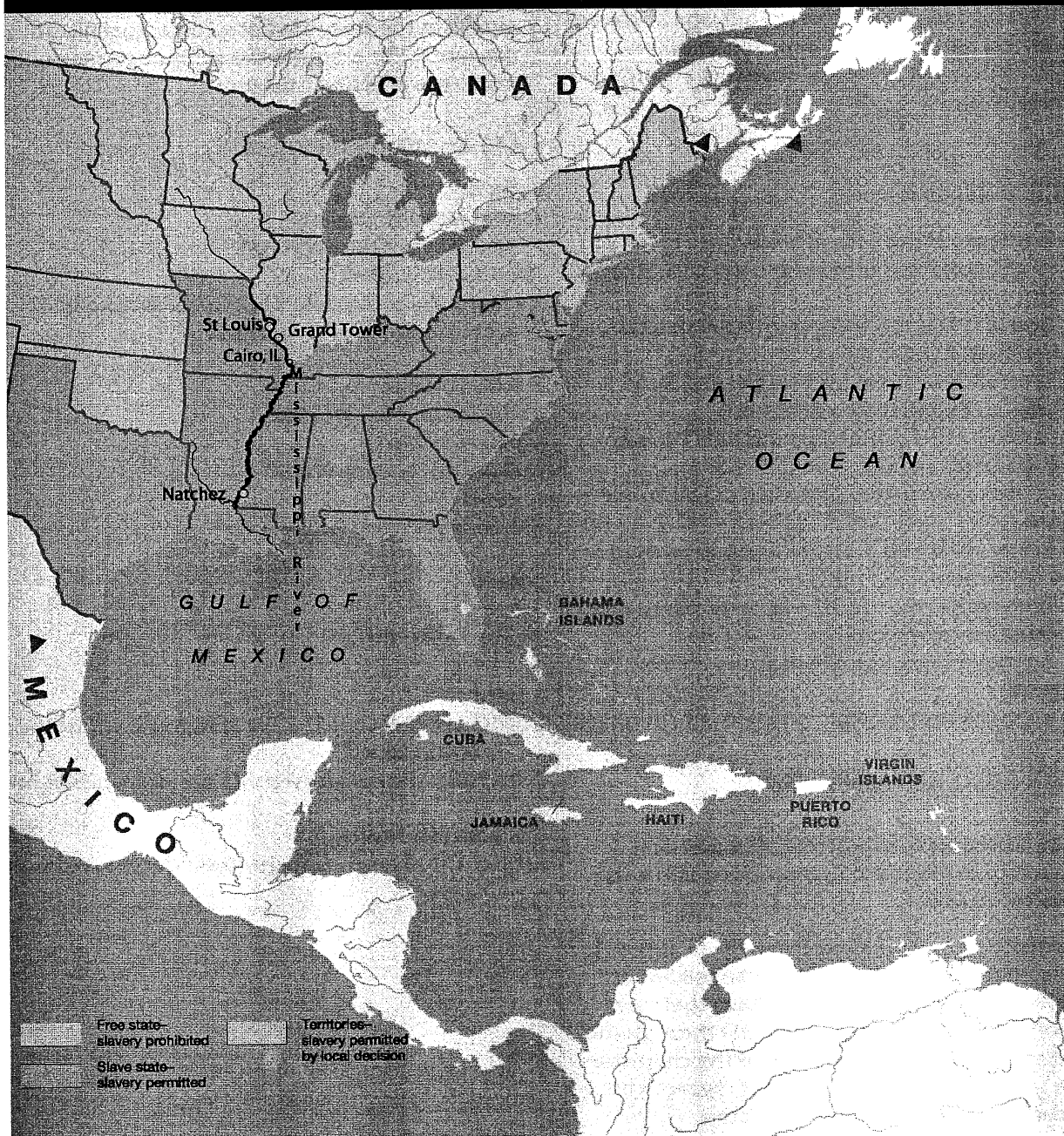
The Importance of Setting

Writing in 1878, Harriet Beecher Stowe reflected on her experiences living in Ohio, very near the Kentucky border where she experienced the horrors wrought by slavery. While on a steamboat on the Ohio River, she saw a slave woman sold away from her husband and family. This and numerous other incidents like it, along with the Northern

backlash to the Fugitive Slave Act persuaded her that the time had come for a polemic novel like *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

The map below portrays the free and slave states and territories where slavery was in dispute prior to the Civil War. Map used with permission of the National Park Service, and is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/carto/index.htm>.

State of the Union at the Start of the Civil War



Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* should include these aspects:

Themes

- evils of slavery
- history
- tragedy
- survival
- incompatibility of slavery and Christian values
- morality
- kindness
- moral power of women
- coping skills
- race relations

Motifs

- showing the destructiveness of slavery
- learning the history of people of African descent and impact of slavery as an institution
- enduring the loss of family and friends
- fighting prejudice
- moral weakness
- learning the value of the family bond
- understanding Christ figures
- recognizing good and evil in people
- dealing with adversity and abuse
- surviving a time of injustice

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in the book. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page number indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. "O yes! – a machine for saving work, is it? He'd invent that, I'll be bound; let a nigger alone for that, any time. They are all labor-saving machines themselves, every one of 'em." (Chapter II, p. 14)
(Rather than appreciated for his intelligence and inventiveness, George is rebuffed and said to be lazy. He is viewed as nothing more than a machine and is only good for work.)
2. "I'm a better man than he is. I know more about business than he does; I am a better manager than he is; I can read better than he

can; I can write a better hand, - and I've learned it all myself, and no thanks to him, - I've learned it in spite of him; and now what right has he to make a dray-horse of me?" (Chapter III, p. 18)

(This quote shows that slavery is dehumanizing and that the slave is deprived of all natural rights. Even though the slave may be better than his master, he has no control over his life.)

3. "So long as your grand folks wants to buy men and women, I'm as good as they is," said Haley;" 'tan't any meaner sellin' on 'em, than 't is buyin'!" (Chapter X, p. 104)
(Mr. Haley defends his work as a slave trader by saying that as long as there is a need for slaves he is willing to supply them. Stowe instructs the reader that if the supposed "grand" folks continue the practice of buying and selling slaves, or continue to tolerate it, slavery will continue. She reminds the reader that it is just as evil to buy slaves as to sell them.)
4. "You ought to be ashamed, John! Poor, homeless, houseless creatures! It's a shameful, wicked, abominable law, and I'll break it, for one, the first time I get a chance; and I hope I shall have a chance, I do!"
"I don't know anything about politics, but I can read my Bible; and there I see that I must feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the desolate; and the Bible I mean to follow." (Chapter IX, p. 82)
(Mrs. Bird is scolding her husband Senator Bird for voting for a law she believes is immoral. Stowe portrays women as more moral and sympathetic to slaves and that a person's conscience should guide them rather than the law.)
5. "My country again! Mr. Wilson, you have a country; but what country have I, or any one like me, born of slave mothers? What laws are there for us? We don't make them, - we don't consent to them, - we have nothing to do with them; all they do for us is to crush us, and keep us down." (Chapter XI, p. 113)
(Mr. Wilson tells George that by running away he will be breaking the law of his country. George is aghast that Mr. Wilson quotes from the Bible and is more concerned with the laws of a country that allows slavery to continue. Stowe conveys the unfairness of the laws of the

country to slaves and that slavery is contrary to Christianity.)

6. "Always dressed in white, she seemed to move like a shadow through all sorts of places, without contracting spot or stain; and there was not a corner or nook, above or below, where those fairy footsteps had not glided, and that visionary golden head, with its deep blue eyes, fledged along." (Chapter XIV, p. 147)
(Evangeline is introduced to the reader and throughout the novel is presented as an angelic figure, completely perfect and moral. She detests slavery and sees no difference between blacks and whites.)

7. "Her first glance was at the river, which lay, like Jordan, between her and the Canaan of liberty on the other side." (Chapter VII, p. 54)

"Right on behind they came; and, nerved with strength such as God gives only to the desperate, with one wild cry and flying leap, she vaulted sheer over the turbid current by the shore, on to the raft of ice beyond." (Chapter VII, p. 62)
(The first quote conveys how Eliza felt after her long an arduous journey. The relief of reaching the river and the fear that it might still be out of her reach.

The second scene is one of the most famous from the novel and aptly conveys the desperation of the slave to gain their freedom.)

8. "His round bullet head, large, light gray eyes, with their shaggy, sandy eye-brows, and stiff, wiry, sun-burned hair, were rather unprepossessing items, it is to be confessed; his large, coarse mouth was distended with tobacco, the juice of which, from time to time, he ejected from his with great decision and explosive force; his hands were immensely large, hairy, sun-burned, freckled, and very dirty, and garnished with long nails, in a very foul condition." (Chapter XXX, p. 334)
(Stowe introduces Legree with a physical description that gives the reader and insight to his cruel nature. His demeanor is such that Tom is immediately revolted and becomes more fearful of him as he gets closer. Her description of Legree as having a "bullet head" conjures up

death and Tom's revulsion at the sight of him foreshadows his impending doom.)

9. "Into thy hands I commend my spirit! Thou hast redeemed me, oh Lord God of truth!" (Chapter XL, p. 414)
(Because Tom refuses to tell Cassy and Emmeline's whereabouts, with this quote, he prepares himself for the torture that lies ahead. The entire scene is taken from the crucifixion of Christ. The taunting by Legree, the conversion of Sambo and Quimbo, and Tom's forgiving his oppressors are reminiscent of Christ's dying on the cross. This quote confirms his character as metaphor for Christ.)
10. "A day of grace is yet held out to us. Both North and South have been guilty before God; and the Christian church has a heavy account to answer." (Chapter XLV, p. 451)
(Stowe is beseeching both North and South to abolish slavery. She blames not only the North and the South, but the church as well for failing to do all that could be done to eliminate this cruel injustice.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. When and where does the story take place? Why is the setting important?
(The story takes place in Kentucky and Louisiana. The setting is important because of the proximity to Ohio. The slaves are near and yet so far from the sanctity of a free state.)
2. What kind of life does Tom live while at St. Clare's plantation?
(Tom enjoys his life while on the St. Clare plantation. He grows ever closer to Little Eva and continues with his Bible study. He gains the trust and respect of St. Clare.)
3. What does Tom do for the slaves on the plantations?
(Tom is an example of goodness and kindness. He is willing to give up his life for those he loves. He lives by the Bible and helps others to live the

same way. Through his religious beliefs he spreads hope and helps to lighten the burden of slavery for others.)

4. What does Little Eva represent in the novel?
(Little Eva represents the perfect being. She is pure in her thoughts and treatment of the slaves. She represents what mankind should be like toward one another.)
5. What does Simon Legree represent in the novel?
(Legree is a lost soul and represents the most depraved evils of slavery.)

Questions 6-9 (Interpretive Level)

6. What is the significance of motherhood in the novel?
(The mothers in the novel represent the opposing viewpoints regarding the cruelty and injustice of slavery. Marie, the mother of Little Eva, is selfish and does not understand her daughter's generosity or kindness. She does not appreciate the child; when Little Eva dies, Marie's thoughts are of herself and not the loss of her child. She does not allow the slaves to mourn the loss of Eva lest they forget her needs. Most of the slave mothers have lost their children through slave trade and are devastated by the loss. Eliza risks all to save her child from slavery, while Cassy kills one of her children to ensure he will never be taken away from her or ever have to suffer the injustice of slavery.)
7. What does Uncle Tom's cabin represent to the slaves?
(The cabin represents freedom. Uncle Tom suffered and died for their freedom and George tells the newly freed slaves to think of Uncle Tom and their freedom when they look upon Uncle Tom's cabin.)
8. What importance does Cassy's character have in the novel?
(Cassy was born from a white father and a black mother and was afforded the same education and comfortable life as her white brothers and sisters. When her father dies her life takes a sudden turn and she ends up a slave to Simon Legree. Through Cassy, Stowe shows the effects of slavery on a human being. Cassy descends from a life love and warmth to a woman who kills her own child.)

9. How important is Christianity in the novel? Is Stowe sending a message to the reader that slavery is against Christian beliefs?
(Christianity plays a major role in the novel. Tom and Evangeline are Christ-like figures who die so that others may be saved, either spiritually or physically. Stowe sends the message to Christian readers that allowing slavery to continue is against their beliefs. Her characterization of not only Tom and Evangeline, but of Mrs. Shelby and Mrs. Bird instructs the reader that they should also fight to abolish slavery.)

Questions 10 and 11 (Critical Level)

10. Stowe occasionally addresses the reader directly. Do you think this improves the story or harms it?
(In addressing the reader, Stowe helps to define her thoughts and concepts and to further educate her readers on the evils of slavery, so they are more apt to appreciate them.)
11. What part of the book did you find humorous? Why?
(After Eliza escapes, the slaves knowingly lead Haley in the wrong direction. This is one of the few comic scenes in the novel. Upon returning from the hunt, Sam relates Eliza's leap across the river and her success at avoiding capture. This scene not only shows the cleverness of the slaves, it brings joy to the lives of those who have little to celebrate.)

(Questions 12 and 13 (Creative Level)

12. Hold a round table discussion on the institution of slavery and how its enduring effects on the country.
13. Write an alternate ending, in which everyone lives "happily ever after."

Across the Curriculum

Art/Music

1. Make a model of Uncle Tom's cabin. Note the garden around the house and detail what fruits and vegetables were grown there.
2. Using scenes from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, create a mural of the main events.
3. Draw a picture depicting Eliza's escape over the ice covered Ohio River.
4. Mr. Shelby had young Harry do a song and dance for Mr. Haley. Write a song using your own words that would fit in this scene from the novel.
5. Draw a map depicting the various routes used by fugitive slaves seeking freedom via the Underground Railroad.

Language Arts

1. Write a newspaper article announcing the auction of newly arrived slaves. Give details of where and when the event will occur.
2. List phrases that underscore the significance of the theme of the incongruity of slavery and Christian values.
3. Discuss Stowe's use of local dialect and how it contributes to the novel.
4. Uncle Tom often directly quotes Jesus Christ from the Bible. Discuss why these passages are important.
5. Have a round table discussion on why in later years *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was looked down upon by the modern black community. Discuss the value of the novel then and now.

History/Social Studies

1. Describe the role of the Quakers in assisting slaves to escape and in ending slavery. Why didn't other denominations join this cause?
2. How did the Fugitive Slave Act affect slaves escaping to the free states?
3. Draw a map of 1850's America. Color-code the slave states and free states.
4. Make a map of George and Eliza's escape route through Ohio and eventually to Canada.
5. Write a paper on the workings of a plantation in the 1850's. Are there any in existence today and how do they differ in the day to day operation?

Science/Math

1. George invents a machine to clean hemp. Does this machine really exist and who invented it?
2. Draw a steamboat and discuss how it operates.
3. Cassy killed her child by using a drug. What is the name of the drug and how does it work?
4. Mr. Shelby was forced to sell Tom to Mr. Haley. What made one slave more valuable than another?
5. George Shelby frees the slaves and says they may remain on the plantation but they will be paid wages. What was the average pay for a freed slave on a plantation? Did many plantation owners follow this practice?

Speech/Drama

1. Write and deliver a speech detailing the evils of slavery.
2. Debate whether *Uncle Tom's Cabin* should be mandatory reading on your grade level.
3. Choose a dramatic scene in the novel. Working with classmates, perform the scene.
4. Select a literary work that takes place in 1800's and compare it to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. For example *Roots*, *Gone with the Wind*, or *Beloved*.

Alternate Assessment

1. Write a character sketch for Little Eva.
2. Make a list of actions that show Eliza is heroic.
3. Compose brief definitions of compassion as they apply to Mrs. Shelby, Little Eva, Miss Ophelia, Rachel Halliday, Mrs. Bird, and Cassy.

Vocabulary						WORD BANK	
2						1	
Across						2. hopelessness	
3.						3. flee	
7.						7. virtuous	
8.						8. apparent	
9.						9. property	
10.						10. unfairness	
12.						12. liberty	
Down						1. brutality	
4.						4. buy	
5.						5. humankind	
6.						6. eliminate	
8.						8. mixed ancestry	
11.						11. to confer freedom	
12.						12. whip	
10						11	
12						7	
9							

WORD BANK
 angelic, abolish, chattel, cruelty, despair,
 emancipate, escape, flog, freedom, injustice,
 humanity, purchase, manifest, mulatto

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Match each description with a name from the list. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- A. Uncle Tom C. Aunt Chloe E. Little Eva G. Cassy I. Simon Legree
B. George Harris D. Ophelia F. Mr. Haley H. Emmeline J. Topsy

- ____ 1. becomes Miss Ophelia's charge and is uneducated and wild
____ 2. pious slave who is sold three times
____ 3. always wears white and is angelic in nature
____ 4. invents a machine to clean hemp
____ 5. raised as the daughter of a white father she becomes a slave
____ 6. sister of St. Clare she attempts to educate Topsy
____ 7. buys and sells Uncle Tom
____ 8. wife of Uncle Tom
____ 9. orders Sambo and Quimbo to whip Uncle Tom
____ 10. runs away with Cassy

Part II: Identification (20 points)

Briefly describe each person, place or thing and explain its importance in the story.

1. Mr. & Mrs. Halliday
2. Eliza Harris
3. Eva
4. Uncle Tom
5. Simon Legree

Comprehension Test B

Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if a part is false.

- 1. After leaving the Shelby plantation, Tom is sold to Legree.
- 2. August St. Clare has a twin brother who believes slavery is just.
- 3. George Harris invents a machine to clean hemp.
- 4. Cassy is Simon Legree's wife.
- 5. Cassy is reunited with her son George.
- 6. George Harris and Madame de Thoux are brother and sister.
- 7. Little Eva gives Uncle Tom a locket of her hair.
- 8. The Hallidays turn Eliza away when she arrives at their house.
- 9. Because of the Quakers, Tom Loker recovers and is a changed man.
- 10. Madame de Thoux, George, and Eliza move to France and never return.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Chose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Tom continually moves deeper into the South. What does this represent in the novel?
2. How important are the roles of women in the novel? Compare Marie St. Clare, Mrs. Bird, and Mrs. Halliday. How are they alike? How are they different?
3. How does the Fugitive Slave Act affect those living in the North?
4. Why wasn't young George Shelby able to have Legree tried for murder? What does this relate about the legal system during that time? Did slaves have any legal standing? If not, why?

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Fill in the Blank (20 points)

Underline the word or phrase that best completes each of the following statements.

1. Cassy dresses as a **(Gypsy, Creole Spanish lady)** when she escapes with Emmeline.
2. Tom first meets Eva on a **(riverboat, a ferry)**.
3. The Fugitive Slave Act was passed in **(1850, 1865)**.
4. Mr. Haley buys Tom and Harry from **(Mr. St. Clare, Mr. Shelby)**.
5. Scipio nursed St. Clare back to health from **(a stabbing, the Cholera)**.
6. **(Mr. Symmes, Mr. Loker)** helped Eliza out of the water when she crossed the Ohio River.
7. Miss Ophelia takes on **(Topsy, Prue)** as her charge.
8. Tom is beaten to death by **(Sambo and Quimbo, Legree)**.
9. The Shelby plantation is located in **(Alabama, Kentucky)**.
10. Henrique beat **(Dodo, Uncle Tom)** because his horse was dirty.

Part II: Identification (20 points)

Briefly describe each person, place, or thing and explain why it is important in the story.

1. Marie St. Claire
2. Miss Ophelia
3. Quimbo & Sambo
4. Uncle Tom's Cabin
5. Ohio River

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left. Use each name only once.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ___ 1. August St. Clare's cousin | A. Aunt Chloe |
| ___ 2. Lies to Miss Ophelia about stealing | B. Mrs. Bird |
| ___ 3. Mulatto woman, lives with Legree | C. Quakers |
| ___ 4. Studied in France and moved to Liberia | D. Miss Ophelia |
| ___ 5. Shelby's cook | E. Little Eva |
| ___ 6. Christian woman, opposes slavery | F. Topsy |
| ___ 7. Kind and gentle people, they helped Eliza | G. Prue |
| ___ 8. Beaten to death by her master | H. Cassy |
| ___ 9. Vows to oppose the Fugitive Slave Act | I. George |
| ___ 10. Angelic, Christ-like character | J. Emily Shelby |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. How did the mail/postal service affect the lives of August St. Clare and Uncle Tom? Give examples.
2. Compare and contrast Mr. Shelby and Mr. Haley. How are they alike? How are they different?
3. Why did President Lincoln refer to Stowe as the "the little lady who started this big war"?
4. What was the Fugitive Slave Act and why was it enacted?

Uncle Tom's Cabin Harriet Beecher Stowe

VOCABULARY

Across

- despair
- escape
- angelic
- manifest
- chattel
- injustice
- freedom

Down

- cruelty
- purchase
- humanity
- abolish
- mulatto
- emancipate
- flog

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. J | 6. D |
| 2. A | 7. F |
| 3. E | 8. C |
| 4. B | 9. I |
| 5. G | 10. H |

Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- These characters are important because they demonstrate that not all white people felt the same about slavery. They were a religious group that stood by the slave and aided them in their cause unlike many of the Christians in the novel.
- She trusted in God but became responsible for her own survival. She took her life in her hands and acted upon her convictions. A parallel can be drawn between Eliza's escape and her mother, Cassy's escape.
- She is the perfect being. She sees no difference between blacks and whites and is Christ-like in her beliefs. Stowe is instructing the reader that everyone should be like this.
- Although Tom hates slavery he stays faithful to his master. He feels running away would be dishonest and would be turning away from his true master, God. He is Christ-like in his characterization and remains the real Christian throughout the novel.
- Legree represents slavery at its worst. He is vicious and unredeemable. His evil is so great that he fosters savagery among the slaves that live on his plantation. When given the opportunity to repent the hatred swells up inside him and he becomes even more ruthless and satanical. Legree epitomizes the inhumanity of slavery.

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T |
| 2. T | 7. T |
| 3. T | 8. F |
| 4. F | 9. T |
| 5. F | 10. F |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Fill in the Blank (20 points)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Creole Spanish Lady | 6. Mr. Symmes |
| 2. riverboat | 7. Topsy |
| 3. 1850 | 8. Sambo and Quimbo |
| 4. Mr. Shelby | 9. Kentucky |
| 5. the Cholera | 10. Dodo |

Part II: Identification (20 points)

- Selfish and petty she does not see slaves as human beings. They are beyond her scope and were born to serve. She represents the attitude of those who allowed slavery to continue. She felt justified in owning slaves because they would only do harm to themselves and each other if left on their own.
- Although she opposes slavery she is reticent about being near slaves. She finds Topsy to be disgusting and recoils when she touches her. She eventually grows to understand and care for the slaves and their plight.
- Stowe used these slaves to demonstrate the effect slavery has on the slave who is continually mistreated. The slaves begin to turn on each other in order to survive. Stowe is telling the reader that cruelty only begets cruelty.
- The cabin represents freedom and suffering. Uncle Tom died rather than betray fellow slaves. George instructs the remaining slaves to think of their freedom when they look at the cabin.
- The river represents the courage of a mother and what she will do to save her child and be free. It also makes the reader realize the closeness of freedom. It exposes those living in the North as complacent. The lack of help for the slaves by those living in the North only makes the river that much wider. They are near and yet so far.

Part III: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. J |
| 2. F | 7. C |
| 3. H | 8. G |
| 4. I | 9. B |
| 5. A | 10. E |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

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