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Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Uncle Tom's Cabin

by Harriet Beecher Stowe

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Uncle Tom's Cabin

Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. infer meanings about characters and events when the meanings are not explicitly stated.
2. point out examples of racial stereotyping in this novel; discuss whether or not this stereotyping is intentional.
3. recognize the author's use of sarcasm in chapter titles, dialogue, and commentary.
4. define the following terms used in the novel to describe slaves and their lives: "quadroon," "mullato," and "Jim Crow."
5. recognize the author's use of irony when discussing the slaveholder's view of the morality of slavery.
6. find examples and comment on the use of asides in the novel in which the author breaks away from the action to speak directly to the reader
7. discuss the title of this novel and its possible relationship to "a Christian home."
8. relate the author's definition of Christianity and include the ideas of love and forgiveness, self-sacrifice, and prayer for all people.
9. list incidents which prove that Stowe believes slavery is wrong and must be abolished:
 - slaves can be sold at the whims of their masters, separating slaves from their families
 - there are no laws protecting slaves from the immoral behavior of their masters; they are at the mercy of the character of their master
 - slavery undermines the principles of Christianity, including the institution of marriage
 - slavery destroys the morality of the slaveholder
 - slaves are not educated, so they can not read the Bible
 - slaves quickly learn to be dishonest, cunning, and underhanded because there is no reason for them to be otherwise
 - slavery destroys souls because it is difficult for slaves to believe in God.

10. write a character sketch of Uncle Tom and comment on whether Uncle Tom is a hero or overly subservient. [Provide incidents to support your point of view.]
11. discuss how the comical characters of Black Sam and Topsy add both comic relief to the story and justify the perceived dishonest nature of slaves.
12. comment on the effectiveness of Stowe's appeal to the sympathies of mothers regarding motherhood and the horrors of slavery, including the females' influence on the opinions of their husbands.
13. point out how Christianity changes Tom Loker, Topsy, George Harris, Cassy, Ophelia, Sambo, and Quimbo.
14. discuss the importance of home in this story and identify incidents to prove the following:
 - slaves do not have what would be considered a home, since they are always in danger of being sold
 - Christianity offers everyone the opportunity to find an eternal home with God
 - the Quakers, the Birds, and Uncle Tom's Cabin are examples of good homes.
15. discuss the extent to which the following is a major theme in this story: Slavery can be eliminated by individual effort and prayer.
16. point out incidents that support Stowe's thesis that the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 is morally wrong.
17. discuss the following rationalizations of Southern slave holders:
 - slaves need to be educated before they can live on their own
 - a slave's life on the plantations is better than it would be if the slave were free
 - the black race is inferior and the Bible supports this opinion
 - the slaves are necessary to keep the owners' estates profitable
 - slaves do not have the same feelings as whites.
18. provide incidents to support these concepts for resolving the slave problem:
 - people must do what "feels right" and is harmony with Christ and their own consciences
 - an individual must pray
 - the church must use its power and wealth to help educate the slaves
 - after educating the slaves to live good Christian lives, they must be given the opportunity to go to Liberia, Africa, so they can have their own nation.
19. point out how the relationship between Ophelia and Topsy reveals the prejudice many Northerners feel toward the Black race.
20. write a character sketch of Eva and point out how she influences Tom's life even after her death.

21. discuss the battle of wills between Simon Legree and Uncle Tom and point out how this conflict could represent a battle between good and evil; point out who is the victor and in what way.
22. contrast the characters Marie St. Clare and Mrs. Shelby in terms of:
 - influence on their husbands
 - attitudes towards slaves
 - effectiveness as mothers
 - ability to live Christian lives.
23. identify the speaker of each of these important speeches and point out if it reveals their character:
 - "...these things sink into my heart." (Eva, Pg.233)
 - "I would die for them, Tom, if I could." (Eva, Pg. 274)
 - "I spects 'cause I's so wicked!" (Topsy, Pg. 248)
 - "heave that ar old pack of trash in the fire, and join my church!" (Simon Legree, Pg. 388)
 - "O! love, - joy, - peace!" (Eva, Pg. 294)
 - "Who, - who, - who shall separate us from the love of Christ!" (Uncle Tom, Pg. 417)
24. discuss the slave's definition of the word "freedom" and list the five "rights" George Harris believes every man is entitled to.

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Test

Matching

Match the character from the novel associated with the phrase. (Note: you can use a name more than one time.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. "O! love, - joy, - peace!" (Pg. 294) | A. Uncle Tom |
| 2. "I spects 'cause I's so wicked!" (Pg. 248) | B. Eva |
| 3. "heave that ar old pack of trash in the fire, and join my church!" (Pg. 288) | C. Topsy |
| 4. "_ these things sink into my heart." (Pg. 233) | D. Simon Legree |
| 5. "Who, - who, - who shall separate us from the love of Christ!" (Pg. 417) | |

Multiple Choice

6. "I would rather not sell him," said Mr. Shelby, thoughtfully; "the fact is, sir, I'm a humane man, and I hate to take the boy from his mother, sir." (Pg. 5)
The above passage is an example of
- A. sarcasm
 - B. irony
 - C. stereotyping
 - D. inference
7. Which of the following illustrates the idea that self-sacrifice is part of being a good Christian?
- A. Tom does not try to escape from Simon Legree's plantation.
 - B. Ophelia decides to teach Topsy to take care of her room.
 - C. Marie St. Clare makes sure Mammy has nice clothes.
 - D. Both A and B
 - E. A, B, and C
8. Despite the good intentions of some masters, Stowe believes slavery must be stopped because
- A. slavery destroys the souls of both the slave and the slave holder.
 - B. it is not really necessary to the economy of the South.
 - C. the slaves will soon rise up against their masters and violently kill them.
 - D. the slaves have become so accustomed to their poor lives, that even when they are offered freedom, they don't want to take it.

9. One of the overall themes of this story is that slavery can be overcome by the efforts of individuals. Which of the following incidents from the story best supports this theme?
- A. Henrique is being sent to the North for his education.
 - B. Tom Loker becomes a better man after staying with the Quakers.
 - C. Mrs. Shelby tries to protect Harry and Tom by pleading with her husband not to sell them.
 - D. George Shelby frees his slaves after Tom's death.
10. Stowe believes slaves can not help but be dishonest because
- A. the only control they have over their lives is through deceit and cunning.
 - B. they have no reason to be otherwise. They will never be able to lift themselves out of slavery by being honest.
 - C. they are uneducated and do not know how to live good Christian lives.
 - D. Both A and B
 - E. A, B, and C
11. Which of the following incidents best demonstrates the desperation of slave women to keep their families together?
- A. Aunt Chloe goes to work in a bakery to earn money to buy Tom back.
 - B. Susan begs her new master to also buy her daughter, Emmeline.
 - C. Eliza crosses the Ohio river by hopping from sheet of ice to sheet of ice.
 - D. Luce refuses to become Black Sambo's new wife.
12. For George Harris the definition of freedom is
- A. escaping to Liberia.
 - B. his right to be a man and his right to protect his family.
 - C. going anywhere as long as he is away from the Harris plantation.
 - D. moving north so that he can pass as a white man because of his light skin color and Caucasian features.
13. Augustine St. Clare is a good man, but he fails to protect Tom from being sold and going south because
- A. he did not give Tom his freedom in time.
 - B. he dies unexpectedly before he tells anyone of his intention to give Tom his freedom.
 - C. he is too grief stricken over Eva's death to worry about a slave.
 - D. Both A and B
 - E. A, B, and C
14. Southern slave holders justify the continuation of slavery because
- A. it is economically necessary to the South.
 - B. they believe the black race is naturally inferior and God intended them to be slaves.
 - C. the slaves are better off on the plantations than they would be if they were free.
 - D. Both A and B
 - E. A, B, and C

15. Stowe recommends the slavery problem be resolved by
- A. forcibly removing slaves from terrible masters like Legree.
 - B. praying and having individuals follow their consciences to do what they “feel” is right.
 - C. finding jobs for escaping slaves in the North and working to raise money to buy the freedom for as many slaves as possible.
 - D. Both A and B
 - E. A, B, and C
16. Which of the following characters in the story best exemplifies the Christian ideal of love and forgiveness for all people?
- A. Eva hugs, kisses, and loves the slaves on her father’s estate.
 - B. Ophelia learns to overcome her distaste at touching black people.
 - C. Tom forgives Legree for having him so severely beaten that he eventually dies.
 - D. Eliza forgives Mrs. Shelby for her inability to keep her husband from selling Harry.
17. “Perhaps you laugh, too, dear reader; but you know humanity comes out in a variety of strange forms nowadays, and there is no end to the odd things that humane people will say and do.” (Pg. 6)
- The above passage is an example of
- A. comic relief
 - B. sarcasm
 - C. aside
 - D. foreshadowing
18. Mr. Shelby calls Harry “Jim Crow” because
- A. Harry is dark skinned like a famous slave, Jim Crow.
 - B. Harry is entertaining and Mr. Shelby enjoys singing and dancing.
 - C. Jim Crow is a famous quadron and Harry is light skinned, too.
 - D. Harry is his illegitimate son by Eliza, Shelby’s wife’s maid.
19. Which of the following places in the novel present the best example of a good home?
- A. The Claire home in New Orleans
 - B. The plantation on Red River
 - C. The Shelby home in Kentucky
 - D. The Bird home in Ohio
20. Cassy learns to pray again when
- A. she is reunited with her daughter, Eliza.
 - B. God helps her to escape by helping her to think of a good plan.
 - C. she is able to help Emmeline escape Simon Legree before he can ruin her.
 - D. George Shelby breaks the Fugitive Slave Law and helps her make it to freedom.

Essays

(Answer any two.)

1. Select the character in the novel that you believe is the most heroic. Support your choice with incidents from the story.
2. What is the significance of the title of this novel? What does Uncle Tom's cabin represent in the story? Cite at least two incidents from the story to support your answer.
3. Some critics believe Eva and Uncle Tom are unbelievable characters who are Christ-like in their perfection. Do you agree or disagree? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.
4. Discuss how the conflict between Uncle Tom and Simon Legree represents the conflict between good and evil. State who you think the victor is and why.

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Test Answer Key

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. B | 11. C | 16. C |
| 2. C | 7. D | 12. B | 17. C |
| 3. D | 8. A | 13. A | 18. B |
| 4. B | 9. D | 14. E | 19. D |
| 5. A | 10. E | 15. B | 20. A |

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Terms and Definitions

Aside - words spoken by an actor in such a way that they are heard by the audience but supposedly not by the other actors. These words usually represent the inner thoughts of the speaker. **Example:** In *Hamlet*, Polonius says in an aside, while talking with Hamlet, "Though this be madness, yet there is method in it."

Dialect - a particular kind of speech used by members of one specific group because of its geographical location or class. **Example:** Jim, in *Huckleberry Finn* says, "Shet de do." ["Shut the door".]

Flat or Static character - a one-dimensional character who lacks diversity and complexity; a character who is either all good or all bad and does not change. Because the character behaves in just one way, he or she is easy to comprehend. **Example:** Sherlock Holmes seems to be calm, deliberative, and in complete charge, regardless of the situation.

Foil - a character whose qualities or actions usually serve to emphasize the actions or qualities of the main character, the protagonist, by providing a strong contrast. On occasion, the foil is used as a contrast to a character other than the main one. **Examples:** Hotspur contrasts Prince Hal in Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part I*; the Roadrunner of cartoon fame uses Wile E. Coyote as his foil.

Foreshadowing - the use of hints or clues in a story to suggest what action is to come. Foreshadowing is frequently used to create interest and build suspense. **Example:** Two small and seemingly inconsequential car accidents predict and hint at the upcoming, important wreck in *The Great Gatsby*.

Inference - the act of drawing a conclusion that is not actually stated by the author. **Example:** In *The Pigman*, John and Lorraine are writing a "memorial epic" about Mr. Pignati. Therefore, the reader may logically assume that Mr. Pignati dies in the book.

Irony - a perception of inconsistency, sometimes humorous, in which the significance and understanding of a statement or event is changed by its context. **Example:** The firehouse burned down.

- *Dramatic Irony* - the audience or reader knows more about a character's situation than the character does and knows that the character's understanding is incorrect. **Example:** In *Medea*, Creon asks, "What atrocities could she commit in one day?" The reader, however, knows Medea will destroy her family and Creon's by day's end.
- *Structural Irony* - the use of a naïve hero, whose incorrect perceptions differ from the reader's correct ones. **Example:** Huck Finn.
- *Verbal Irony* - a discrepancy between what is said and what is really meant; sarcasm. **Example:** A large man whose nickname is "Tiny."

Sarcasm - the use of harsh words to deride and criticize. Sometimes, sarcasm is apparent only by the way something is said rather than the actual words that are used; other times the sarcasm is obvious. **Example:** In *The Catcher in the Rye*, Holden says about a taxi driver he dislikes that, "he certainly was good company. Terrific personality."

Stereotyping- the act of putting people into groups based on race, religion, nationality, physical appearance, social class, or some other easily identifiable characteristic. **Example:** In *The Last of the Mohicans*, Magua and Uncas are the stereotypical ideals of evil and good Indians, respectively.

Superstition - any belief or attitude based on fear or ignorance that is inconsistent with the known laws of science. **Example:** Breaking a mirror brings seven years bad luck.

Theme - the central or dominant idea behind the story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject. Sometimes theme is easy to see, but, at other times, it may be more difficult. Theme is usually expressed indirectly, as an element the reader must figure out. It is a universal statement about humanity, rather than a simple statement dealing with plot or characters in the story. Themes are generally hinted at through different methods: a phrase or quotation that introduces the novel, a recurring element in the book, or an observation made that is reinforced through plot, dialogue, or characters. It must be emphasized that not all works of literature have themes in them. **Example:** In a story about a man who is diagnosed with cancer and, through medicine and will-power, returns to his former occupation, the theme might be: "Real courage is demonstrated through internal bravery and perseverance." In a poem about a flower that grows, blooms, and dies, the theme might be: "Youth fades, and death comes to all."

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Notes

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1851, at the request of her sister-in-law, Isabella Jones Beecher. Isabella was outraged at the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law, which required citizens in non-slave states to return runaway slaves to the south. Harriet Beecher Stowe intended to write a story about how the immorality of slavery ruined both the slaves and their owners. Immediately popular, this book was credited with helping many white people view slaves as feeling, intelligent people for the first time.

All references come from the Bantam Books edition of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, published 1981.

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Questions for Discussion and Essay

1. Who is the “Man of Humanity” referred to in the title of the first chapter? Find an example of sarcasm in this chapter.
2. How is the dialect in this book an example of racial stereotyping? What kind of racial stereotyping is implied by describing Eliza and Harry as “almost white”?
3. Despite the kindness of the Shelbys, why are their slaves in danger? What do you think the Shelbys could have done to protect Tom and Eliza?
4. Why do you think George Shelby likes to eat dinner in Uncle Tom’s cabin? How is he treated differently than Uncle Tom’s own children?
5. For what reason does Mrs. Shelby say that slavery a “curse to the master”?
6. Compare Uncle Tom and Mr. Shelby. Which man has the most courage? Who best adheres to the principle of Christianity of love and forgiveness for all?
7. Find an example of an aside where the author speaks directly to the reader in chapter 5.
8. How does Black Sam use Haley’s own bigotry to delay the search for Eliza?
9. What is the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850? How do the Birds feel about this law?
10. What incidents in this story illustrate the depth of a slave mother’s love for her children?
11. How does the gift George Shelby gives Uncle Tom help Cassy escape from Simon Legree?
12. Why does Mr. Wilson think it is wrong for George to run away from his master? What does George say to Mr. Wilson that makes Wilson agree not to turn George in to the authorities?
13. List three reasons Southern slave holders support the institution of slavery, even though they think it is morally wrong.
14. Why do the Quakers risk imprisonment by helping runaway slaves?
15. Relate three incidents from the story where Tom demonstrates the Christian doctrine of self-sacrifice.

16. For what reasons is Marie St. Clare dangerous to the slaves? Support or refute the following statement: Augustine St. Clare lacks the courage of his convictions, which results in the sale of his slaves at the slave auction.
17. Who is the speaker of the following passages from the novel?
 - "...these things sink into my heart." (Pg. 233)
 - "I would die for them, Tom, if I could." (Pg. 274)
 - "I spects 'cause I's so wicked!" (Pg. 248)
 - "I wish you would have some kind of sympathy for my trials; you never have any feeling for me." (Pg. 175)
 - "I'd give ye my heart's blood; and, if taking every drop of blood in this poor old body would save your precious soul, I'd give 'em freely" (Pg. 410)
 - "heave that ar old pack of trash in the fire, and join my church!" (Pg. 388)
 - "O! love, - joy, - peace!" (Pg. 294)
 - "Mother"
 - "Who, - who, - shall separate us from the love of Christ!" (Pg. 417)
18. List the three main locations for the action in this story.
19. What does Ophelia learn from Topsy? How does Topsy change by the end of the story?
20. Relate the significance of Eva's hair in the story. How does it help Tom even after her death?
21. Find two examples of prejudice toward blacks by Northerners, who claim to be against slavery.
22. What evidence is there that St. Clare goes to heaven after he dies? Do you agree that he belongs there?
23. Why does Simon Legree brag about the strength of his fist?
24. Discuss the battle of wills between Simon Legree and Uncle Tom. In what ways is their conflict a battle between good and evil? Which is stronger?
25. Why do you think Cassy never tries to escape before meeting Uncle Tom?
26. How does Cassy maintain her influence over Simon Legree? In what ways does she use his own weaknesses to gain her freedom?
27. What does "freedom" mean to George Harris? Point out the significance of George only accepting Christianity after he gains his freedom?
28. Discuss the author's definition of a good Christian life. What role does she see for the church in abolishing slavery?

29. At the end of the novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin is left empty as a symbol for the now freed slaves. What does it represent?
30. Relate an incident from the story which illustrates each of the following reasons for abolishing slavery: Break up of families; immoral behavior of slave holders; lack of education for the slaves; slavery destroys the souls of both slaves and slave holders; slaves can be sold at the whim of their masters; slave marriages are not recognized by law.
31. Which of the characters in the story are "good" mothers? What power do they have to influence the opinions of their husbands?
32. How does the introduction of Christianity into their lives change Tom Loker, Cassy, Sambo, and Quimbo?
33. Cite incidents from the story to prove this overall theme: Slavery can be eliminated through individual efforts and prayer.
34. Modern slang uses the name "Uncle Tom" to refer to any black person who is overly subservient to whites. Do you agree or disagree that the character of Uncle Tom in this book deserves to be remembered in this way?
35. What do you think about Stowe's recommendation that the slaves, after learning to live as Christians, should be relocated to Liberia? Are there any characters in the book who, after gaining their freedom, remain in America?

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Study Guide Teacher's Copy

Chapter 1 - In Which the Reader is Introduced to a Man of Humanity

Vocabulary

bedropped—spotted, covered

pious—religious

grotesque—fantastic

piquant—engaging

elucidations—explanations

prevalence—dominance

counterpoise—counterbalance

patriarchal—fatherly

adroitly—skillfully

magnanimity—generosity

incredulity—disbelief

1. Briefly describe Mr. Shelby and Mr. Haley. Why do you think Mr. Shelby is referred to as having "...the appearance of a gentleman..."? (Pg. 1)

Mr. Shelby - He looks, talks, and has the manners of a fine gentleman.

Mr. Haley - He is a short, coarse, low man who is trying to raise himself up in the world. He swears and speaks with poor grammar.

Mr. Shelby has the appearance of a gentleman, but he is willingly selling his slaves to a slave trader. This is not the act of a gentleman.

2. How does Mr. Shelby describe Tom? Why does he think Tom is a valuable slave?

Mr. Shelby describes Tom as steady, honest, capable, sensible, and pious. Tom is valuable because he is religious. His strong adherence to the principles of Christianity make him a good, honest worker who is easy to handle.

3. What is ironic about the following passage from this chapter?

"I am sorry to part with Tom, I must say. You ought to let him cover the whole balance of the debt; and you would, Haley, if you had any conscience." (Pg. 2)

Mr. Shelby is accusing Mr. Haley of having no conscience; yet, Mr. Shelby is selling a loyal servant to a slave trader. Mr. Shelby is the one who should be bothered by his conscience.

4. Define quadroon. Why do Eliza and her son Harry catch the eye of the slave trader?

Quadroon - a person who has one Negro grandparent; child of a mulatto and a white.

Eliza is attractive by white man's standards of beauty. The slave trader can sell her for a high price to men who want to use her for sex. Harry is physically attractive and can easily be sold to be trained as a houseboy in a wealthy man's home.

5. Define Jim Crow. Why do you think Mr. Shelby calls Harry "Jim Crow"?

Jim Crow is the name of an early Negro minstrel song. Mr. Shelby calls Harry "Jim Crow" because he enjoys Harry's dancing and singing. It is a term used to describe entertaining slaves.

6. In the following excerpts from the story, both Mr. Shelby and Mr. Haley profess to be "humane" men. What is ironic about their claims? Who do you think Stowe is referring to in the title of this chapter, "In Which the Reader is Introduced to a Man of Humanity"?

"I would rather not sell him," said Mr. Shelby, thoughtfully; "the fact is, sir, I'm a humane man, and I hate to take the boy from his mother, sir."
(Pg. 5)

"And I lays it all to my management, sir; and humanity, sir, I may say, is the great pillar of *my* management." (Pg. 6)

It is ironic that both men are bragging about being humane when they are planning to separate a mother from her child.

Answers may vary.

7. Stowe frequently breaks away from the story, in an aside, to speak directly to the reader. Find an example of an aside in this chapter.

Answers may vary.

8. Who is Tom Loker? Why did Haley "break off with him"?

Tom Loker is Haley's old partner. He is very hard on slaves, frequently beating them over the head if they don't conform to his wishes. Haley dissolves the partnership because Loker is ruining the merchandise.

9. What is the “shadow of the law” that hangs over the slaves in Kentucky? Why is slavery in Kentucky an example of the “mildest form of the system of slavery”?

The “shadow of the law” is the fact that in the eyes of the law, slaves are considered to be “things” and the property of their master. Slaves can be sold into a life of misery at the whim of their master.

Kentucky estates have a varied agriculture. The slaves do not spend their lives in misery, picking cotton all day long. Also, the plantation owners are more relaxed. They do not feel the pressure that the plantation owners in more southern districts feel to produce great quantities of cotton. Therefore, the Kentucky slave owners treat their slaves better.

10. Briefly describe Mrs. Shelby. In what way might she be called “blind”?

Mrs. Shelby is an intelligent, moral woman. She is very religious and tries to instill morals and religion into the lives of her slaves.

Answers may vary.

Example: Mrs. Shelby can be called blind because she can not see the danger Eliza and her son are in. OR She is also considered blind because she can not see her husband’s weaknesses.

Chapter 2 - The Mother

Vocabulary

petted—pampered

quadroon—person of 1/4 Negro ancestry

mulatto—person of Caucasian and Negro ancestry

hemp—a tough plant refined for use as rope

chattel—slave

ebullition—outburst

tranquillized—calmed

inducement—consideration

1. Stowe is frequently criticized for racially stereotyping the slaves in this book. In what ways does she stereotype Eliza and George Harris in this chapter?

Stowe implies that Eliza and George are beautiful, attractive slaves because they are light skinned. She says they closely resemble white people, and white people of the time prefer white looking slaves.

2. What does George Harris do that makes his master “...feel an uneasy consciousness of inferiority”? (Pg. 11) How does his master punish George?

George’s master hires him out to a factory. The factory pays his master George’s wages. While working there, George invents a machine for cleaning the hemp. When his master tours the factory, he is disturbed by George’s accomplishments and by George’s pride in his work. His master immediately removes George from the factory and gives him the worst jobs available at the estate.

3. How does George demonstrate that he is not the kind of man who can “become a thing”?

George is not disrespectful, but he demonstrates a flashing eye and troubled brow while doing his work.

4. “A very humane jurist once said, The worst use you can put a man to is to hang him. No; there is another use that a man can be put to that is worse!” (Pg. 13)

What in George’s life is worse for him than hanging?

All hope of escaping the toil and drudgery of life on the plantation is taken away from George when his master rejects the factory owner’s plea for George to return to the factory. A life without hope is worse than death by hanging.

Chapter 3 - The Husband and Father

Vocabulary

dray-horse—horse adapted for pulling heavy loads

verandah—(usually spelled “veranda”) porch

1. In this chapter both George and Eliza express their opinions of slavery and how to survive its horrors. Briefly state their views and point out in what ways they differ.

George believes he is a man and deserves the same rights all men need to remain men. Eliza thinks it is her duty as a Christian to obey her masters. When there is trouble, she tries to maintain her belief in God. George looks at slavery in terms of individual rights, while Eliza sees the whole system as against God’s laws.

2. What dangers does George see for his wife and son, even though they have a kind master?

George and Eliza can be separated at the whim of his master. Marriages between slaves are not protected by the law. Harry and Eliza are in danger of being sold if Mr. Shelby dies.

3. Why does Eliza not tell George about her fear that Mr. Shelby might be planning to sell Harry?

George has enough problems without worrying about Harry. Eliza trusts Mrs. Shelby’s word that Harry is not going to be sold.

4. How does George plan to escape his miserable life?

George is going to go to Canada. He has friends who will help him escape the Harris plantation and travel north. Once he is safe, he plans to earn enough money to buy Eliza and Harry from Mr. Shelby.

Chapter 4 - An Evening in Uncle Tom's Cabin

Vocabulary

multiflora rose—a thorny rose with clusters of small flowers

vestige—trace

indulgent—tolerant

frizzling—frying until crisp and curled

anon—immediately

indubitable—unquestionable

intimations—suggestions

tea-rusks—tea-bread (crispy, dry bread)

trussing—binding the wings and legs for cooking

hoe-cake—small cake made of cornmeal

dodgers—a cake that is cooked as a dumpling

compeers—masters of ceremony

congenial—pleasant

daguerreotype—photo made on a glass plate, but in this case, it means “describe”

edification—instruction

facetious—witty

sanguinary—optimistic

benighted—unenlightened

precipitately—headlong

capering—frolic

trundle bed—low bed on casters to fit under a higher bed when not in use

unction—religious intensity

obliged—favored

1. Briefly describe Aunt Chloe and Uncle Tom.

Aunt Chloe is Uncle Tom's wife and the best cook in the neighborhood. She is also the cook at the master's house. She is dark-skinned, plump, and jolly.

Uncle Tom is dark-skinned, large, and has an air of self-respect and dignity about him. He is a simple man, and a devoted Christian.

2. How do Uncle Tom and Aunt Chloe feel about George Shelby's presence in their cabin?

They are both very proud of George's accomplishments. He is treated respectfully, but warmly. Aunt Chloe and Uncle Tom are impressed by his reading and writing skills. George sits at the dinner table with Uncle Tom, while Tom's three children must wait for their dinner.

3. What happens in Tom's cabin after their evening meal? Why are Tom's prayers appreciated by the other slaves?

Aunt Chloe gets the house ready for a prayer meeting. George reads from the Bible, the group sing hymns, and Tom offers a prayer. Tom's prayers are excellent because they are simple, sincere, and seem to come from his heart.

4. Find an example of racial stereotyping in this chapter. In what way is Uncle Tom's dialect and his wife's dialect an example of racial stereotyping? (Hint: look at the dialogue in the previous chapter.)

Answers may vary.

Example: "How easy white folks al'us does things!" (Pg. 21) OR "...for the negro-mind, impassioned and imaginative, always attaches itself to hymns and expression of a vivid and pictorial nature;..." (Pg. 28)

Uncle Tom and Aunt Chloe are dark-skinned and speak with a dialect. Eliza and George look more like whites, and their dialogue is written without the black dialect. It is implied that light-skinned slaves speak better than dark-skinned slaves.

5. For what reason can Mr. Shelby be called a hypocrite?

Mr. Shelby wants assurances that Mr. Haley will check into the background of the person who buys Tom; yet, Mr. Shelby has just sold Tom to Mr. Haley without first checking into his background.

6. The title of a novel is often indicative of its overall message. At this point in the story, why do you think Stowe calls her book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?

Answers will vary.

Example: Uncle Tom's Cabin is the center of Christianity for the slaves on the Shelby plantation. It is also a warm, loving home. Stowe may be trying to portray slaves as Christians with the same family values as whites.

Chapter 5 - Showing the Feelings of Living Property on Changing Owners

Vocabulary

indignation—anger

intercede—mediate

pecuniary—monetary

abolitionist—person devoted to abolishing slavery

dilated—enlarged

adieu— (from the French) farewells, good-byes

affrighted—alarmed, frightened

1. One of the themes in this book is that of the definition of Christianity includes love and forgiveness for all people as well as self-sacrifice. List two ways Tom illustrates the concept of self-sacrifice in this chapter?

First, Mrs. Shelby states that she believes Tom is so noble that he would lay down his life for Mr. Shelby. Next, Tom refuses to run away with Eliza after he learns Mr. Shelby sold him to Haley. Tom knows that if he leaves, the other slaves on the plantation will have to be sold. He sacrifices himself to keep them together.

2. “This is God’s curse on slavery! - a bitter, bitter, most accursed thing! - a curse to the master and a curse to the slave! I was a fool to think I could make anything good out of such a deadly evil.” (Pg. 33)

What “good” is Mrs. Shelby trying to make out of the evil of slavery? Why does she believe she has failed? For what reason is slavery a “curse to the master”?

Mrs. Shelby tries to make the lives of her slaves so nice that they are better off belonging to the Shelbys than they would be if they were free. She has failed because the laws permit a slave owner to separate families. Slavery is a curse to the master because Christian values teach that a soul is worth more than money, but Mr. Shelby is selling Harry for money.

3. Support or refute the following statement by citing incidents from the story: Tom has more courage and moral fortitude than his master.

Answers will vary.

4. At the time this story was written, some critics questioned the actions of some of the slaves in the story. They believed the slaves were not accurately portraying real life. Read the following note Eliza leaves for Mrs. Shelby. Do you find this note to be believable? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.

“O Missis! dear Missis! don’t think me ungrateful, - don’t think hard of me, any way, - I heard all you and master said to-night. I am going to try to save my boy - you will not blame me! God bless and reward you for all your kindness!” (Pg. 35)

Answers will vary.

5. Find an example of an aside in this chapter where Stowe tells the reader how to feel about Mr. Shelby’s decision to sell Tom and Harry.

Answers will vary.

Example: “For, sir, he was a man, - and you are but another man. And, woman, though dressed in silk and jewels, you are but a woman, and, in life’s great straits and mighty griefs, ye feel but one sorrow!” (Pg. 38)

Chapter 6 – Discovery

Vocabulary

connived—conspired

imps—rascals

deputing—delegating

ludicrous—absurd

officiousness—meddling

zeal—passion

1. How do Mr. and Mrs. Shelby react to the news that Eliza has fled with Harry?

Mr. Shelby is upset because his honor is at stake. He promises to deliver Harry to Mr. Haley. Mrs. Shelby is delighted and thanks the Lord.

2. What aspects of Black Sam’s behavior support Stowe’s description of him as a man who “...would have done credit to any white patriot in Washington”? (Pg. 41)

Black Sam behaves like a politician. First, he brags that he will catch Eliza quickly. Then, when he realizes Mrs. Shelby does not want her to be caught, Sam changes his tune and makes plans to sabotage the efforts of the search party.

3. Many critics consider this chapter an interlude of comic relief giving the reader a break from the serious issues presented earlier in the novel. List the ways the slaves on this estate are able to manipulate the situation, all the while seemingly obeying their master.

The slaves have a good system of communication with each other about the events in the main house. Black Sam places a beech-nut under the saddle of a horse, causing it to run away. Then he pretends to be trying to catch the horses when he is really scaring them away. Through these “actions” Sam is able to delay Haley’s departure several hours.

Chapter 7 - The Mother’s Struggle

Vocabulary

revered—adored

reproachfully—disgracefully

paroxysm—convulsion

sublime—splendid

constrained—hold back

turbulent—agitated

turbid—muddy

undulating—swinging

dignitary—person of dignity or honor

disobliged—inconvenienced

de novo—again, anew

artifice—trick

1. How does Eliza care for her son while they are traveling to the Ohio River?

Eliza carries him most of the way. Eventually, he falls asleep in her arms. Eliza has some food which she give to Harry. She refuses to eat until they are safe.

2. Why does Eliza decide it is safe to stop at a farmhouse to buy some dinner?

Eliza and Harry look white. They can travel without being questioned. Also, if someone does recognize them as belonging to the Shelbys, Eliza thinks the well-known kindness of the family will eliminate any suspicion of being fugitives. There is no reason for anyone to suspect that one of their slaves is trying to escape.

3. “...you oughter think what an awful state a poor crittur’s soul’s in that’ll do them ar things—you oughter thank God that you an’t *like* him, Chloe. I’m sure I’d rather be sold, ten thousand times over, than to have all that ar poor crittur’s got to answer for.” (Pg. 53)

Tom is talking about Haley in the above quotation. Why does Tom feel sorry for Haley?

Tom thinks Haley will pay for his sins after he is dead. Tom would rather suffer here on Earth than have to answer to the Lord for sins like the ones Haley commits.

4. Mr. Shelby says to Tom, “My good boy,...the Lord knows you say the truth; and if I was able to help it, all the world shouldn’t buy you.” For what reasons do you believe or disbelieve the sincerity of Mr. Shelby’s statement?

Answers will vary.

5. How do Sam and Andy use Haley’s prejudices to delay Haley’s pursuit of Eliza and Harry?

Haley assumes they are going to lie to him. Andy and Sam tell Haley they think Eliza took the dirt road, knowing Haley will be suspicious of them and do just the opposite. The dirt road is the correct one, but Haley takes the pike because he doesn’t trust Andy and Sam.

6. The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 makes it a crime for anyone in a free state to assist a runaway slave from a slave state. Why then does Mr. Symmes help Eliza once she reaches the Ohio shore? Find a quotation in this chapter where Stowe breaks away from the story to lecture the reader about this kind of law.

Mr. Symmes is impressed with Eliza’s bravery. He does not think it is right for him to hunt and catch other people.

Answers may vary.

Example: “So spoke this poor, heathenish Kentuckian, who had not been instructed in his constitutional relations, and consequently was betrayed into acting in a sort of Christianized manner...” (Pg. 59)

Chapter 8 - Eliza's Escape

Vocabulary

imprecations—curses

dissonant—grating

hobble—problem

snivelling—whining

felicitation—happiness

apocryphal—fictitious

penitential—humble

alacrity—cheerful speed

olla podrida—spicy stew

dilettanti—amateur lovers of the arts

sententious—moral

1. In this chapter, Tom Loker is reintroduced. What deal does Tom Loker and Marks make with Haley?

They agree to capture Eliza and her child for Haley. They will return the child to Haley and sell Eliza as payment for their services.

2. What is the “greatest mod’rn improvement” Haley can think of concerning slaves? (Pg. 62)

He wants to breed the slave women so they do not care about their children.

3. Find an sarcastic passage in this chapter that criticizes the laws which protect the slave trader and slave catcher.

Answers may vary.

Example: “If all the broad land between the Mississippi and the Pacific becomes one great market for bodies and souls....the trader and catcher may yet be among our aristocracy.” (Pg. 68-69)

4. Why does Mrs. Shelby consider Sam’s story about Eliza’s escape to be apocryphal?

Mrs. Shelby does not believe that Eliza leaped across the ice in the way Sam describes, because it would take a miracle for Eliza to make it safely across.

Chapter 9 - In Which It appears that a Senator Is but a Man

Vocabulary

abetting—supporting

vexation—irritation

beguiled—charmed

bombazine—black silk

for bore—held back

liege—faithful

expiate—amend

1. Mrs. Bird is normally a gentle, sympathetic woman. What circumstances must be present for Mrs. Bird to become passionate?

Mrs. Bird can not tolerate cruelty of any kind.

2. How does the following passage help the reader to understand why a caring man like Mr. Bird votes for the Fugitive Slave Law?

“...there is such a state of public agitation rising, that we must put aside our private feelings.” (Pg. 77)

Mr. Bird votes for the law because he is worried about the South breaking away from the Union. He hopes enforcing this law will help to preserve the Union, and politically he considers it to be a small price to pay to prevent the southern states from leaving.

3. Cite incidents from the story to support or refute the following statement: Good men vote for bad laws.

Answers will vary.

4. Why is Mrs. Bird particularly moved by Eliza’s problems?

Mrs. Bird recently lost a small son and can fully appreciate Eliza’s determination to save Harry.

5. What steps does Mr. Bird take to help Eliza?

He suggests that Mrs. Bird give Eliza some clothes for herself and Harry. Mr. Bird decides to personally drive Eliza to Mr. Van Trompe’s house. Mr. Bird knows Mr. Van Trompe will help Eliza escape to Canada.

6. Find a passage in this chapter where Stowe openly appeals to maternal sympathies.

Answers may vary. Example: Second paragraph on page 85.

Chapter 10 - The Property is Carried Off

Vocabulary

vehemently—emotionally

expostulations—discussions

1. Find an example of stereotyping that tries to explain Tom's feelings the morning Haley takes him away from his family.

Answers may vary.

Example: "Tom, who had, to the full, the gentle, domestic heart, which woe for them! has been a peculiar characteristic of his unhappy race..." (Pg. 91)

2. Why do many slaves, who belong to kind masters, take the risk and flee to Canada? What, if anything, do you think is wrong with Stowe's explanation?

They are terrified of being sold into the South. "The threat that terrifies more than whipping or torture of any kind is the threat of being sent down river." (Pg. 93)

Answers may vary.

Example: It is much too simple an answer. It erroneously implies that slaves are content as long as they are well-treated.

3. What vow does Mrs. Shelby make to Aunt Chloe and Uncle Tom before he leaves with Haley?

She promises to keep track of his whereabouts, so that one day she can buy him back.

4. What does Master George give Tom? Why?

George puts a dollar on a string and ties it around Tom's neck. George wants Tom to remember, every time he looks at the dollar, that George is going to find a way to bring him back.

Chapter 11 - In Which Property Gets into an Improper State of Mind

Vocabulary

calico—white cotton fabric

greensward—turf green with growing grass

bonhomie—graciousness

pertinaciously—stubbornly

handbill—printed sheet for distribution

valise—traveling bag

cumbrous—heavy

obsequious—flattering attentiveness

1. Why does the long-legged veteran tell Mr. Wilson he would like to brand George's master?

The veteran does not like masters who mistreat their slaves. George's master branded him on the right hand with the letter H. The long-legged veteran treats his slaves like men and he gets men's work from them.

2. Who is Mr. Butler of Oaklands, Shelby County? Why does he invite Mr. Wilson to his room?

Mr. Butler is George in disguise. He invites Mr. Wilson to his room because George realizes Mr. Wilson recognizes him.

3. For what reasons does Mr. Wilson believe it is wrong for George to run away from his master? What does he agree to do to help George?

First, it is against the laws of the country. Next, it is written in the Bible that a man must submit to Providence. Mr. Wilson agrees not to turn George in as a runaway slave. If George should be killed while escaping, Mr. Wilson agrees to give Eliza a pin and tell her that George loved her.

4. What is George implying when he says "All men are free and equal in the grave"? (Pg. 112)

George will not be captured alive.

5. At the end of the chapter Mr. Wilson tries again to convince George to trust God. What does George finally agree to "think of" in the last line of the chapter?

George agrees to consider that there is a God who will make things right in another life, if they cannot be set right in this life.

Chapter 12 - Select Incident of Lawful Trade

Vocabulary

supposititious—illegitimate

trepidation—fear

worsteds—yarn

1. What evidence is there that Stowe believes the idea of a happy, cheerful slave is ludicrous?

Answers may vary.

Example: Haley tells his slaves to be cheerful because then they will sell better. The slaves don't feel cheerful. They are slaves and have been separated from their loved ones.

2. How are the two white women's opinions of slavery different?

One woman insists the slaves are better off in slavery than they would be if they were free. The other thinks it is wrong to separate families, especially mothers and children. The first woman states that slaves do not have the same feelings as whites.

3. Briefly state the two opposing views of slavery found in the Bible.

First, the Bible states that the descendants of Canaan shall be servants. The second view is that the Bible says we are to treat others in the same way we would want to be treated.

4. Find an example of sarcasm in this chapter when Stowe is criticizing the lawmakers for permitting slave trading inside the country, even after it has long been outlawed to import slaves from Africa.

Answers will vary. Example: Sarcasm can be found in the last two paragraphs on page 130.

5. In what way does Tom try and help Lucy? Is he successful? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.

Tom tries, unsuccessfully, to comfort Lucy after her baby is sold by telling her about God and eternal life.

Answers will vary.

Chapter 13 - The Quaker Settlement

Vocabulary

gentry—folks

betimes—early

1. Briefly describe Rachel Halliday. Why are Eliza and Harry staying in her home?

Rachel Halliday is a mature Quaker woman. She has a round, rosy face and gray streaks in her hair. She is described as having a good and true heart. Rachel and the other Quakers are helping Eliza escape to Canada. The Quakers do not approve of slavery and actively work against it.

2. Some of the characters in this book undergo a change. How does George's view of religion begin to change at the end of the chapter?

George learns to believe in God by experiencing the good will of the Godly Quaker family. He comes to understand the definition of home for the first time in his life.

3. George is worried that the Hallidays are putting themselves at risk by helping him and his family. How does Simeon put George's mind at ease?

The Halliday family are not breaking the law for George, they are breaking it for God and man. They would help a slaveholder as well as a slave if one came to their door in need.

Chapter 14 – Evangeline

Vocabulary

bignonia—vines

propitiate—pacify

furbishing—polishing

sarcastic—witty

expatiating—speaking at length

1. How is Tom's Bible different from other Bibles? What does the Bible mean to Tom as he reads it traveling to an unknown fate?

Important passages in Tom's Bible are marked with bold dashes described as way-marks and guide-boards. Tom invents this system so he can find his favorite passages. Tom reads very slowly, so usually he asked one of his master's children to read to him. Then Tom marks the parts of the Bible that touches his heart.

Tom's Bible is his link to his old life and his promise of eternal life.

2. Find a passage stereotyping blacks and describing Tom's reaction to Eva.

Answers may vary.

Example: "Tom who has the soft, impressible nature of his kindly race, every yearning towards the simple and childlike, watched the little creature with daily increasing interest." (Pg. 144)

3. Briefly describe Eva.

Eva is five or six years old. She is always in motion, graceful, and has a dreamy expression on her face. She is dressed in white, but does not seem to get dirty. She has golden hair and deep blue eyes.

4. Why do you think Tom tries to make friends with Eva? How does he accomplish it?

Answers may vary.

Tom makes friends with her by showing Eva the little treasures he has in his pocket. Tom knows how to make small toys that delight children.

5. Why does Eva want her father to buy Tom?

She wants to make him happy.

6. Find an example of sarcasm in the conversation between Mr. St. Clare and Haley.

Answers will vary. Example: Sarcasm can be found in the fourth paragraph on page 146.

7. What evidence is there that Mr. St. Clare, despite his good intentions, can not view Tom as an individual?

Answers will vary.

Example:

Mr. St. Claire calls Tom "boy," and assumes that Tom will want to get drunk.

Chapter 15 - Of Tom's New Master and Various Other Matters

Vocabulary

constitution—body

badinage—banter, animated joking

obtuseness—insensitivity

caprices—whims

ennui—boredom

menage—household

milliner—womens' hats

parasol—umbrella

hem stitched—decorative needlework

inexorable—relentless

impudent—scorn, disdain

pellucid—clear

cambric—white linen

alacrity—eagerness

1. Briefly identify each of the following characters living in the St. Clare New Orleans home.

Marie St. Clare - *Marie is Eva's mother. She is a selfish, spoiled woman who suffers continually from headaches.*

Ophelia - *She is Mr. St. Clare's cousin from Vermont. She is a very orderly woman who is moving to New Orleans to help Augustine manage his household.*

Mr. Adolph - *He is a slave and Mr. St. Clare's butler. Mr. Adolph uses St. Clare for his last name and tries to wear Mr. St. Clare's clothes.*

Mammy - *She is a slave woman in the household who is more of a mother to Eva than Marie St. Clare.*

Chapter 16 - Tom's Mistress and Her Opinions

Vocabulary

peroration—speech

impudence—boldness

fastidious—demanding

1. What is ironic about Marie St. Clare's opinion that Mammy is selfish?

Marie is the selfish person, but she complains that Mammy is selfish. Marie expects Mammy to stay awake at night just because Marie might need her. Also, Marie refuses to let Mammy return to Marie's father's home to be with her husband and children. Marie accuses her of being selfish for wanting to go.

2. In the following passage Marie complains about her husband's attitude towards their slaves.
"He says we have made them what they are, and ought to bear with them.
He says their faults are all owing to us, and that it would be cruel to make the fault and punish it too." (Pg. 172)

In what ways is Augustine's attitude toward their slaves different from Marie's?

Marie believes the black race is a degraded race, unequal to the white race. Augustine believes the black race is unequal because the white race has made them that way through generations of slavery.

3. Why does Marie want to send unruly slaves to the calaboose?

The calaboose is a place where, for a fee, men will beat a slaveholder's slaves for him. Marie is too weak to beat her slaves and her husband refuses to beat them; so she wants to send them to the calaboose.

4. How does Ophelia think slaveholders ought to treat their slaves? Why?

Ophelia thinks the slaves need to be educated and treated as God's creatures. The slaveholders will eventually have to stand before God and answer for their behavior.

5. "Not that there is a particle of virtue in our not having it; but custom with us does what Christianity ought to do, - obliterates the felling of personal prejudice. I have often noticed, in my travels north, how much stronger this was with you than with us." (Pg. 176)

How does Augustine St. Clare, in the above passage, criticize the Northerners for their behavior toward blacks?

The Northerners want to send the slaves back to Africa. They claim that slavery is wrong, but they do not want to have anything directly to do with black people.

6. What does the following passage from this chapter tell the reader about Augustine's opinion of Tom and Augustine's religious beliefs?

"...and he the most wonderful Tom that ever wore a black skin. This is one of the roses of Eden that the Lord has dropped down expressly for the poor and lowly, who get few enough of any other kind." (Pg. 176)

Answers may vary.

Example: Augustine believes that Tom and other black people are God's people. Tom is compared to the roses of Eden: beautiful, pious, and innocent.

7. Why does Eva want to go to church, even though the services make her sleepy?

She believes God wants her to go to church. It is a small thing to do for God, who gives us everything.

8. What is Augustine's opinion of the religious leaders who claim the Bible supports slavery?

Augustine thinks slavery exists because it is necessary for the economic security of the South. The scriptures can be interpreted in many different ways. The ministers are interpreting them in support of slavery for their own selfish interests.

9. "I say, what do you think, Pussy?" said her father to Eva, who came in at this moment, with a flower in her hand.

"What about, papa?"

"Why, which do you like the best, - to live as they do at your uncle's, up in Vermont, or to have a house full of servants, as we do?"

"O, of course, our way is the pleasantest," said Eva.

"Why so?" said St. Clare, stroking her head.

"Why, it makes so many more round you to love, you know," said Eva, looking up earnestly. (Pg. 183)

How do you interpret Eva's statements about slavery in the above quotation? Do you think she supports it, or could her statements have a different meaning?

Answers will vary. Example: She loves everyone and the extra "servants" only make her love go further. She does not support slavery at all, just loves all people.

Chapter 17 - The Freeman's Defence

Vocabulary

irresolution—uncertainty

bestir—get going

1. Who is Phineas Fletcher? How is he different from the other Quakers?

Phineas Fletcher is a convert to the Quaker religion. Before marrying a Quaker he was a backwoodsman who liked to fight and hunt. Now he has the heart of a Quaker, but is still tempted to fight when he is angry. The other Quakers do not condone violence for any reason.

2. Some critics believe that Stowe thinks the black race has more right to eternal salvation than whites. Cite incidents from this chapter to support or refute this statement.

Answers will vary.

Example: "But it is often those who have least of all in this life whom He chooseth for the kingdom." (Pg. 190) The slaves who have the poorest lives on earth will probably be chosen for God's kingdom.

3. How do the men tracking George and his family react to his statement, "We don't own your laws; we don't own your country; we stand here as free, under God's sky, as you are; and, by the great God that made us, we'll fight for our liberty till we die"? (Pg. 195)

All of the men except for Marks are touched by George's speech. Marks cocks his pistol and shoots at George.

4. Why does Phineas stop to help Tom Loker? What do you think is going to happen to Tom in the Quaker house?

Phineas is a Quaker at heart and can not turn away anyone in need, even an enemy. He is doing God's, and man's, work.

Answers may vary.

Example: Tom is going to be nursed back to health and he will probably change his wicked ways after spending time with the Quakers.

Chapter 18 - Miss Ophelia's Experiences and Opinions

Vocabulary

solicitude—care

rusticity—rural

incipient—starting

sanguine—optimistic

rusks—crisp breads

1. Why do you think Tom tries to get Mr. St. Clare to take better care of himself and stop drinking?

Answers may vary.

Example: Tom is a true Christian and is interested in Augustine's welfare. Tom may also be trying to protect his master's health because if something happens to him, all of the slaves on the estate will be in danger of being sold.

2. Find an example of stereotyping in Stowe's description of Dinah.

Answers may vary.

Example: "...cooking being an indigenous talent of the African race..." (Pg. 205)

3. Support or refute the following statement. Dinah is a strict master, a cooking genius, and a very disorganized person.

Answers will vary. Examples can be found within the text on page 205.

4. Why are Ophelia's efforts to put the household in order compared to Sisyphus, from Greek Mythology?

No matter how many times Ophelia organizes a household area, the slaves quickly make a mess, forcing Ophelia to organize it again. She is like Sisyphus who is doomed to Hades where he must repeatedly roll a stone up a hill just to have it roll down again.

5. For what reasons does Augustine St. Clare believe it is inevitable that slaves grow up to be dishonest?

He believes that a slave child learns to be cunning and deceitful at a very young age. There are no honest opportunities for a child born into slavery. The only control a slave child has over his life is to learn to behave in an underhanded way. Slave children are kept dependent and childish. It is natural for them to feel that the master's things are not his own.

6. Why does Prue state that she would rather go to “torment” than to heaven? What new “horror” of slavery is revealed by Prue’s life story?

She does not want to go to heaven if white people will be there. Prue was used to breed slave children for market. Her old master did not let her keep any of her babies. After she got old, he sold her. Prue had one more child, hoping she might be able to raise just one of her babies. Her mistress refused to get her milk for the baby and kept Prue away from the baby at night. Finally, the baby cried herself to death from hunger and neglect.

Chapter 19 - Miss Ophelia’s Experiences and Opinions, Continued

Vocabulary

selectman—local authority

veneration—respect

punctilious—careful

cavil—raise an objection

1. Why doesn’t St. Clare report Prue’s death to the authorities?

Prue is considered property and it is a man’s right to destroy his own property. No one would have any sympathy for a thief and drunkard like Prue.

2. St. Clare tells Ophelia that he, and many other Southerners, know that slavery is wrong. If he feels this way, why does he own slaves? Why doesn’t he free his slaves?

St. Clare’s slaves are the same servants he grew up with. They belonged to his father and his mother. He only keeps the old house servants and their children. He does not free them because he believes, “All were well satisfied to be as they were.”

3. How does St. Clare’s father justify permitting Mr. Stubbs to occasionally be cruel to his slaves?

Mr. Stubbs is the overseer and main government on the plantation. All government, by necessity, includes some harshness. If St. Clare’s father wanted to keep Stubbs as the overseer, then everyone had to accept Stubbs’ occasional cruelty.

4. What justification does Alfred, Augustine’s twin brother, give for using hundreds of slaves to run his plantation?

Alfred calls it the “right of the strongest.” He thinks that all civilizations enslave the masses in order to progress. Alfred believes the Southern slave system is not very different from the class system in England.

5. Why did Augustine leave the plantation he and his brother inherited to make a life for himself in New Orleans?

Augustine destroyed the discipline on the plantation. He refused to whip the slaves for being lazy or trying to cheat by putting stones under the cotton in their baskets. These are things Augustine himself would have done under the same circumstances. Augustine St. Clare could not stand using the slaves as tools to make money.

6. What do you think Eva means when she says "...these things sink into my heart"? (Pg. 233)

Answers may vary.

Example: The reader knows Eva has delicate health. It is implied that the cruelty she hears and sees weaken her by small degrees.

7. Since St. Clare is so against slavery, why doesn't he return Tom to his family?

Answers may vary.

Example: St. Clare thinks the Sheldons don't really want to buy Tom back. They just told him that to make the horror of being sold less painful.

Chapter 20 – Topsy

Vocabulary

sanctimonious—hypocritical

ineffaceable—permanent

laudanum—opium

1. Briefly describe Topsy when she arrives at the St. Clare home.

Topsy is a young black slave girl eight or nine years old. She is very black with little braids sticking out all over her head. She has bright white teeth and an expression of shrewdness and cunning.

2. How does St. Clare convince Ophelia that she should try to educate Topsy?

St. Clare tells her it is an experiment to see if Ophelia can educate a child born into slavery. He tells Ophelia that it is a kind of missionary work.

3. Where was Topsy living before St. Clare brought her home? Where are her parents?

Topsy has no parents. She was purchased by a speculator when she was very little and then sold to the men who run the restaurant. They beat her regularly. St. Clare didn't like listening to her screams, so he bought her for Ophelia.

4. Briefly describe Ophelia's ideas of education. How does Ophelia demonstrate the Christian principle of self-sacrifice when she is working with Topsy?

Ophelia believes in teaching children to obey, teaching them catechism, sewing, and reading, and teaching them to tell the truth. Ophelia tries to train Topsy to take care of Ophelia's bedroom. This is an example of self-sacrifice because taking care of her room is a job she prefers to do herself.

5. Why does Topsy confess to stealing Eva's necklace and Rosa's earrings?

Ophelia tells her to confess to other crimes to avoid a beating. Topsy does not have anything to confess, so she makes up the story of stealing the necklace and earrings.

6. Compare Topsy and Eva. In what ways is the character Topsy a foil for Eva? Which character do you think will have the greater influence over the other? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.

Topsy was born a slave, oppressed, uneducated, and unloved. She has dark skin, hair and eyes. Eva was born into the upper class, well educated, and loved. She is blonde and fair skinned. Topsy does many wicked things, while Eva only tries to do good.

Answers will vary.

7. Support or refute the following statement: Topsy is an appropriate name for this child because of the impact she has on the Clare household.

Answers will vary.

8. For what reasons does St. Clare refuse to whip his slaves?

He thinks it causes a gradual hardening for both the slave and the slave holder. The more a slave holder whips his slaves, the easier it is for him to whip them. He gradually loses his moral abhorrence for this kind of abuse. The slave becomes hardened by the whipping, so that the severity must increase to get the same effect. St. Clare wants to avoid this cycle, so he does not whip his slaves.

9. How does Topsy manage to keep the other servants from tormenting her?

Anyone who does anything to Topsy soon suffers an inconvenient accident.

10. Overall, what do you think Stowe is saying about the complexity of the slavery issue in the South?

The issue of what to do with the slaves is more complex than the Northern states wanted to believe. It is not a simple task to educate and reform a slave child. The problems of doing this with an adult are enormous. It took many generations to create the situation and it cannot be easily repaired.

Chapter 21 - Kentuck

1. How is Aunt Chloe planning to help Tom?

Aunt Chloe is going to work for a bakery in town. The money she earns will be put away to buy Tom back. The Shelbys have agreed to the plan, even though it will take four or five years.

Chapter 22 - “The Grass Withereth - The Flower Fadeth”

Vocabulary

assiduously—persistently

1. Find an example of foreshadowing in this chapter.

Answers may vary.

Example: Eva tells Tom that she is going to the clouds in the sky. She is also showing signs of illness, foreshadowing her early death.

2. What does Eva want to do with the money from her mother’s jewels?

She wants to buy a free farm, take all of the servants there, and teach them to read. Eva thinks they need to be able to read the Bible by themselves.

3. What evidence is there that St. Clare knows Eva is dying?

He begins to spend more time with her and hugs her more often.

Chapter 23 – Henrique

Vocabulary

canaille—riffraff

1. Briefly describe Henrique.

Henrique is the son of Augustine's St. Clare's twin brother Alfred. Henrique has dark hair and is twelve years old. He has a bad temper when he is excited.

2. Why is Alfred St. Clare planning to send Henrique North to be educated?

The system of slavery in the South teaches young men like Henrique to be cruel to their servants. The whites can do anything they want because slaves are unprotected by the law. This kind of system undermines the morality of young men like Henrique.

3. For what reasons is Alfred against educating the black race?

He is worried that if they are educated they may decide to revolt against the slave holders. If they are kept ignorant, then they will be powerless to overcome their masters.

4. Why does Eva make Henrique promise to try and love Dodo?

Dodo has recently been separated from his mother at a slave warehouse. Eva is upset that he has been removed from everyone he knows and from everyone who loves him. She wants Henrique to try and love Dodo so Dodo will feel better.

Chapter 24 – Foreshadowings

Vocabulary

consumption—tuberculosis

rumpussed—made a noisy commotion

1. How does Marie feel about Eva’s impending death?

Marie is concerned with her own selfish needs. At first she insists that her own illnesses are much more severe than Eva’s. When it is clear that Eva is very ill, Marie complains about how much taking care of a sick child drains her health.

2. Why does Eva say to Tom, “I would die for them, Tom, if I could”? (Pg. 274)

Eva is saying that she would die for the slaves if her death could stop all of their misery.

3. For what reason does Eva say that she wishes their slaves were free?

Eva knows the slaves are well-cared-for as long as they belong to St. Clare, but she worries about what may happen to them if something should happen to her father.

4. List two things Eva wants her father to do after her death.

First, she wants him to free Tom. Secondly she wants him to go around the country and try to persuade people that slavery is wrong.

Chapter 25 - The Little Evangelist

Vocabulary

shilly-shally—wavering

1. Why does Topsy not at least try to be good?

Topsy does not see any reason to be good. She will always be black, and can never do anything with her life except be a slave.

2. How does Eva finally convince Topsy to try to be good?

Eva tells her that she loves her and that Jesus loves her. Eva tells her that if she tries to be good then Topsy can go to heaven and be an angel. It does not matter to Jesus if her skin is black or white.

3. Ophelia overhears the conversation between Topsy and Eva. What does she learn?

Ophelia knows that she is prejudiced against Topsy and does not like to be touched by her. Ophelia learns that Topsy is aware of her disgust and that is one reason that Topsy will not try to be good.

Chapter 26 – Death

Vocabulary

damask—bright fabric

eldrich—strange

1. Why does Eva ask Topsy to fill her vase with flowers everyday?

Eva knows that Topsy loves her and wants to do something to help.

2. For what reason does Eva give each of the servants a lock of her hair?

Eva wants them to remember that she loves them, has gone to heaven, and wants to see them there some day. It is her way of being remembered and encouraging them to be Christians.

3. What is Eva's definition of being a Christian?

For Eva, being a Christian is loving Christ most of all.

Chapter 27 - “This is the Last of Earth.”

1. How has Ophelia’s attitude toward Topsy changed since Eva’s death?

Ophelia is trying to overcome her prejudice and love Topsy.

2. In what ways has Marie changed since her daughter’s death?

Marie now talks about Eva like she was Marie’s greatest possession. Marie exaggerates her grief over Eva’s death to gain attention for herself.

3. How does St. Clare test Tom’s faith? Why does Tom stay by St. Clare’s side?

St. Clare tells Tom that he is more knowledgeable than Tom and does not believe the Bible. He does this to see if he can shake Tom’s faith. Tom’s faith is unshaken. Tom stays with St. Clare because he senses that his master needs help to become a Christian again.

Chapter 28 – Reunion

Vocabulary

ciphers—numerals

invectives—insults

representations—formal protests

1. List two ways St. Clare becomes “another man” after Eva’s death.

First, he reads Eva’s Bible. Then he starts the procedure to give Tom his freedom.

2. How does Tom explain to St. Clare his desire to be free, even though it means he will not live as well without St. Clare’s protection and money?

Tom says that it is natural for a man to want to be free, even if that means he must also be poor.

3. Why does Ophelia insist that St. Clare immediately sign the papers legally transferring ownership of Topsy to herself?

Answers may vary.

Example: Ophelia is beginning to love Topsy and can not stand the idea of her being sold at a slave auction.

4. List the reasons St. Clare thinks life would be difficult for freed slaves.

There is no one to educate them or make them Christians. Even if they had skills, no one would hire them for the better jobs. He can not imagine anyone hiring Adolph as their clerk.

5. In what ways does the following quotation apply to today's world?
"We are in a bad position. We are the more *obvious* oppressors of the negro; but the unchristian prejudice of the north is an oppressor almost equally severe." (Pg. 313)

Answers may vary.

6. Why do you think St. Clare is often thinking about his mother? State a theme for this story concerning the power of women, particularly mothers, to influence the world.

Answers may vary.

Example: His mother was a Christian woman. He is beginning to believe in the power of religion again.

Answers may vary.

Example: Women in general, and mothers in particular, have the power in their homes to steer their husbands and children toward the path of Christianity.

7. What does the last paragraph in this chapter imply about St. Clare's final fate?

If he sees his saintly mother as he dies, then he must be going to heaven.

Chapter 29 - The Unprotected

Vocabulary

crestfallen—dejected

conciliatory—agreeable

1. How does Stowe explain the grief slaves feel when a kind master dies?

The slaves are totally dependent on their master's kindness to keep from being sold. After his death, they are unprotected and may be sold to a cruel, new master.

2. Why is Rosa nearly hysterical over the prospect of a whipping?

Rosa is being sent to a whipping establishment where a terrible man will whip her. It is horrible to be whipped by anyone, but shameful to be sent to this place to be punished.

3. Support or refute the following statement by citing incidents from the chapter: Ophelia does all she can to try and help Tom.

Answers will vary.

Chapter 30 - The Slave Warehouse

Vocabulary

obstinacy—stubbornness

1. How are the slaves in the warehouse treated by the dealers?

The slaves are well fed, clean, and generally looked after because then they will be worth more at auction.

2. The dealers try to get the slaves to act cheerful. Why do the slaves comply with their directions?

The slaves want to be sold to a good master. They are afraid of being sold to the plantations down south, where they will have a short life working in the fields.

3. Briefly describe Susan and Emmeline. How does Stowe criticize the northern position on slavery by presenting their story?

Susan is Emmeline's mother. They are both beautiful slaves, who are well educated and had been well treated by their previous master.

At the death of their master, Susan and Emmeline become part of her estate, which is being sold to satisfy her son's creditors. One of the creditors is a firm in New York. One of the owners of the firm is described as a Christian Northerner who does not want to own slaves. So, he tells his lawyer to "dispose of the business in the way that seemed to him the most suitable, and remit the proceeds." (Pg. 328) The owner claims to be a Christian, but gives the lawyer permission to sell the slaves at auction. The North protests against slavery, but when it impacts their profits, they do not behave any better than the Southerners.

4. Briefly identify Simon Legree. What is Tom's first impression of him?

Legree is a short, strong man. He is ugly, dirty and foul. Legree buys both Tom and young Emmeline. Tom feels an immediate "revolting horror" when he first sees Legree.

5. What is Stowe saying about men who make a profit by selling slaves, as revealed in the last paragraph of the chapter?

"On the reverse of that draft, so obtained, let them write these words of the great Paymaster, to whom they shall make up their account in a future day: "When he maketh inquisition for blood, he forgetteth not the cry of the humble!" (Pg. 334)

Men who make a profit by selling slaves must ultimately answer to God for their greed.

Chapter 31 - The Middle Passage

Vocabulary

debauchery—sinfulness

sauntered—strolled

1. What voice does Tom hear that Legree will never hear as shown in this excerpt?

“Fear not! for I have redeemed thee. I have called thee by my name.

Thou are MINE!”

But Simon Legree heard no voice. That voice is one he never shall hear.

He only glared for a moment on the downcast face of Tom, and walked off. (Pg. 336)

Tom hears the Eva’s voice reading the scripture to him. The voice Legree will never hear is the voice of God. He will never hear it because he will not go to heaven.

2. In what way does the stranger on the ship insult Legree without Legree realizing it?

“Tell ye, sir, the flesh on’t has come jest like a stone, practicing on niggers, - feel on it.”

The stranger applied his fingers to the implement in question and simply said,

“ ‘Tis hard enough; and, I suppose,” he added, “practice has made your heart just like it.” (Pg. 337-338)

Legree is bragging that his fist is hard from hitting his slaves. The stranger tells him his heart is also hardened from committing so many brutal acts. Legree takes the stranger’s comment as a compliment on his ability to handle slaves. The stranger intends it as an insult.

3. Why does the stranger tell his friend that “It is your respectability and humanity that licenses and protects his brutality”? (Pg. 339)

The kind masters who sanction slavery and have the influence to keep the system going are responsible for the brutal masters like Legree. If there were only brutal masters, the system of slavery would have been abolished years ago. It is kept going because of the so called “humane” slave holders.

Chapter 32 - Dark Places

Vocabulary

fettered—shackled

wistful—sad

potentates—rulers; kings

1. Briefly describe Legree's plantation.

The house is falling apart. The plantation was once a beautiful place, but Legree has neglected it. Signs of decay and desolation are everywhere.

2. Who are Sambo and Quimbo? How does Legree govern his plantation workers?

Sambo and Quimbo are slaves, who work for Legree as cruel, brutal overseers. Legree governs his slaves, including Sambo and Quimbo, by keeping them in a constant state of warfare. The slaves hate Sambo and Quimbo, Sambo and Quimbo hate each other, and everyone hates Legree. By playing them off against each other Legree manages to know everything that happens on his estate.

3. Describe the first act of charity Tom commits on Legree's plantation?

Tom grinds the corn for two very tired slave women. They in turn cook his cake for him. Also, he talks to them about the Bible.

4. Cite incidents, from the end of this chapter, to support or refute the following statement: Tom has not lost his faith in God while living in this terrible place.

Answers may vary.

Chapter 33 – Cassy

Vocabulary

unremitting—total

disdain—anger

1. For what reasons does Legree dislike Tom?

Tom is completely good and Legree is totally bad. Stowe states there is a “native antipathy of bad to good.” Tom notices Legree’s acts of brutality and violence. He doesn’t say anything, but Legree senses his disapproval. Finally, Tom is smart enough to be an overseer, but lacks the hardness necessary to discipline the other slaves.

2. Briefly describe Cassy. What power does she seem to have over Sambo, Quimbo, and Legree?

Cassy is a tall, slender slave about thirty five-years old. She has the appearance of refinement and was probably beautiful when she was younger. It is unusual for her to work in the fields. She does not let Sambo or Quimbo touch her. They seem to be afraid of her and leave her alone. Legree tries to frighten her with his fist, but she simply walks away.

3. Why do you think Cassy stays by Tom’s side on their way to the fields? What does she do to support Tom?

Answers may vary.

Example: Cassy can sense that Tom will protect her if she gets into trouble with the other field hands.

Cassy gives Tom some of her cotton when she sees him giving his cotton to Lucy.

4. What does Tom say to Legree that surprises him and sends a “thrill of amazement” through the other slaves? (Pg. 355)

Tom refuses to obey Legree’s command to whip Lucy. Tom tells Legree that it isn’t right and he will never do it.

5. How does Tom react to the following question from Legree?

“Didn’t I pay down twelve hundred dollars cash, for all there is inside yer old cussed black shell? An’t yer mine, now, body and soul?” he said, giving Tom a violent kick with his heavy boot; “tell me!” (Pg. 355)

Tom looks to heaven with joy and triumph. He tells Legree that his soul belongs to God and Legree can never own it.

Chapter 34 - The Quadroon's Story

Vocabulary

imperious—dominant

1. How does Tom respond when Cassy tells him “You are in the devil’s hands; - he is the strongest, and you must give up!”? (Pg. 357)

Tom tells her that he has lost everything in this world, so he cannot lose Heaven too.

2. Why doesn’t Cassy’s father marry her mother? How does his wife treat Cassy after his death?

Cassy’s father can not marry her mother because she is a slave, and, he is already married. After his death his wife and her children move to New Orleans and leave Cassy behind to be sold.

3. How does Cassy feel about her new master? Why does he sell her and their children?

Cassy is in love with her new master and wants him to marry her. He gets into debt and then falls in love with another woman. Ultimately, he sells Cassy to the man who got him into debt. This man eventually sells her children to new owners.

4. Why does Cassy kill her third child?

She kills her son by giving him an overdose of laudanum. Cassy does not want him to ever face the pain of being a slave.

Chapter 35 - The Tokens

Vocabulary

reproof—reprimand

1. How do Cassy’s sporadic episodes of raving insanity help her to control Legree?

Legree is superstitious and he is afraid of insane people.

2. What is the “Something that niggers gets from witches. Keeps ‘em from feelin’ when they’s flogged”? (Pg. 369)

Sambo is talking about the silver dollar and lock of Eva’s hair that Tom wears around his neck.

3. Why is Legree afraid of the curling yellow hair?

Legree's mother was a pious woman with yellow hair. Legree rejected her and her religion to embrace a life of sin and greed. At her death, she sends him a lock of her hair. Legree is afraid of the hair because it reminds him of the "everlasting fires" he will face because of his wicked life. (Pg. 370)

Chapter 36 - Emmeline and Cassy

Vocabulary

retribution—vengeance

abyss—deep pit

insensate—without sense

1. Why doesn't Cassy kill herself?

Cassy went to school in a convent, and the nuns instilled a fear of death in her.

2. What advice does Cassy give Emmeline on how to survive in Legree's household?

Cassy tells Emmeline to do the best she can, do what she must, and "make it up in hating and cursing." (Pg. 374)

3. Why does Legree decide to put off dealing with Tom?

Legree has a wager with the other planters on how much cotton they will have at the end of the season. Legree does not want to damage Tom during the busy season. He needs Tom to work in the fields. Also, Legree is superstitious and gives in to Cassy's request to let her nurse Tom until he is strong enough to work again.

Chapter 37 – Liberty

Vocabulary

prudent—wise

exuberant—joyful

1. How does Tom Loker help George and Eliza?

He warns them that their descriptions have been sent to Sandusky. The people there are looking for a light-skinned woman, a little boy, and a light skinned man with a brand on his hand. Eliza disguises herself as a man and dresses Harry up as a girl.

2. What is the meaning of the word “freedom” to George?

Freedom for George means the right to be a man, to protect his wife, to have a home of his own, to have a religion of his own, and a right to have freedom of his will.

Chapter 38 - The Victory

Vocabulary

exultant—triumphant

scanty—few; minimal

1. What is the “...true searching test of what there may be in man or woman”? (Pg. 386)

The true test of a man or a woman is living day to day through all of life’s problems, no matter how painful and depressing.

2. How does Legree, unwittingly, help Tom hold onto his faith? In what ways does Tom change after talking to Legree?

Tom is tired and is finding it difficult to find the time to read the Bible or pray. He is slipping into a life of dejection. Legree notices Tom’s depression and tells him to give up the Christian religion and “join my church”. (Pg. 388) Legree wants Tom to become like Sambo and Quimbo.

Tom rejects Legree and at the same time regains his strength to pray, his cheerfulness, and his alertness.

3. Why does Legree cry out and say “What have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? - art thou come to torment us before the time”? (Pg. 329)

Legree realizes that God is helping Tom endure the whippings and insults. Legree is no longer trying to break a man; he is trying to break a man who is being protected by God. Legree asks God if he is trying to torment Legree before the time of his death, when Legree must face God and answer for his sins.

4. Cite incidents from the chapter to support or refute the following statement: Tom is a coward when he refuses to kill Legree when Cassy gives him the chance.

Answers will vary. Example: Tom is not a coward. He is only doing what the Bible tells him, which is to “...love our enemies.” (Pg. 394)

5. Why do you think Cassy is miraculously, after many years of captivity, able to think of a plan so that she and Emmeline can escape?

Answers will vary.

Chapter 39 - The Stratagem

Vocabulary

garret—unfinished part

opulent—wealthy

desuetude—disuse

appurtenances—accessories

lugubrious—mournful

paternatural—psychic

execrations—curses

flambeaux—flaming torches

1. Briefly outline Cassy’s escape plan.

Cassy and Emmeline pretend to escape in the swamp. They circle back to the house and hide in the garret. Cassy knows Legree will not search there because he thinks it is haunted. Cassy memorized the route to the Red River and steals enough money from Legree to buy their passage to freedom. The two women plan to stay hidden in the house until Legree gives up searching the swamp for them.

2. Cite incidents from the story to support or refute the following statement. Cassy only tries to scare Emmeline with her knife; she has no intention of hurting the girl.

Answers will vary. Example: Cassy is only trying to scare Emmeline to keep her from fainting as they try their escape into the swamp.

Chapter 40 - The Martyr

Vocabulary

curvetting—prancing

1. Why is Cassy unable to pray?

She is empty inside because she misses her children. Cassy tells Emmeline that if God gave back the children, then Cassy would be able to pray again.

2. In the following passage, Tom tells Legree that he would die for him. Some modern critics of this book claim that the character of Uncle Tom tries to please his white master and lacks the strength to fight for his freedom. What evidence is there in this chapter to support or refute this idea?

“Mas’r, if you was sick, or in trouble, or dying, and I could save ye, I’d give ye my heart’s blood; and, if taking every drop of blood in this poor old body would save your precious soul, I’d give ‘em freely, as the Lord gave His for me.” (Pg. 410)

Answers may vary.

Example: Tom is a very strong man. He endures a terrible beating rather than betray Cassy and Emmeline. Also, he stays on the plantation to try and help the other slaves know about God, rather than try and save himself by escaping. Tom believes that being a true Christian includes hoping for Legree’s final redemption.

3. In what ways is Tom’s death similar to Eva’s? How are Sambo and Quimbo like Topsy?

At the end, both Tom and Eva are responsible for saving the souls of those around them. Topsy tries to be good and Sambo and Quimbo want to learn about Jesus. All three change for the better after learning about God.

Chapter 41 - The Young Master

Vocabulary

impetuous—passionate

vehemence—intensity

1. What final messages does Tom want George to deliver to Aunt Chloe?

Tom does not want George to tell Aunt Chloe how much he as suffered. He asks George to tell her that he is going to glory and that the Lord has made his passing easy. He wants George to tell them to follow Tom to heaven by being Christians.

2. How do Tom's final words offer the slaves and the slaveholders hope for their futures?

“Who, - who, - who shall separate us from the love of Christ!” (Pg. 417)

Answers may vary.

Example: The slaves who are Christians will find eternal peace with God. The slaveholders can repent their sins and be forgiven.

3. Why doesn't George report Tom's murder to the authorities?

There are no white witnesses and the testimony of blacks is unacceptable in Southern courts.

4. George has the money to buy Tom. At Tom's grave he swears to do what one man can to drive slavery from his land. Why then, do you think George does not buy the men who help him bury Tom?

Answers will vary.

Example: He is keeping the money for Tom's family, since Aunt Chloe earned it.

Chapter 42 - An Authentic Ghost Story

Vocabulary

perspicuous—clear

pneumatology—study of spiritual beings

rencontre—hostile meeting

obsequious—subservient

1. How do Cassy and Emmeline manage to sneak away from Legree's garret?

They pretend to be ghosts. When they are far enough away from his estate, they change their clothes. Cassy masquerades as a Creole lady and Emmeline is her servant.

2. It is not uncommon for authors in the 1800's to tie up all the loose ends of their stories at the end of their books. How does Stowe wrap up the story of Cassy's life?

Cassy meets George Shelby on the boat. Through him she meets Madame de Thoux who happens to be George Harris' sister. When George Shelby and Madame de Thoux are discussing George Harris, Cassy learns that George's wife Eliza is her lost daughter.

Chapter 43 – Results

Vocabulary

escutcheon—stern

1. Why do George and his family want to leave the country to live in Liberia, Africa? How does he think he can combat slavery in America by relocating to Africa?

George wants a country and a nation of his own. He thinks that the African race can be better than the Anglo-Saxon race if given the opportunity to use their God-given talents and live as Christians.

He wants to form a country that will eventually be part of a council of nations. With their support he thinks he can help to end slavery in America. As part of a new nation, he thinks he will have more power to abolish slavery than he would have as an individual in America.

2. What happens to Emmeline and Topsy?

Emmeline marries a man who works on the ship she and Topsy take to France. Topsy becomes a missionary in Africa.

3. Do any of the characters who manage to escape slavery opt to stay in America? What do you think of Stowe's decision to write their "happy" endings in this way?

Answers may vary.

Chapter 44 - The Liberator

Vocabulary

pertinaciously—stubbornly

te Deum—praise to God

1. How does George Shelby fulfill his promise to do everything in one man's power to eliminate slavery from the South?

George frees all of his slaves. They agree to stay on the plantation, but he is going to pay them wages and help them learn how to behave as free men and women. This way they don't lose their home, but are protected in case he is killed or gets himself into debt.

2. George Harris moves to Africa, but George Shelby tries to fight slavery by freeing the slaves and teaching them to be free. Which of these two plans do you think Stowe considers to be the most viable? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.

Answers will vary.

3. How does the following passage from this chapter help to define the significance of the title of this book? State an overall theme for this story based on this quotation:

“Think of your freedom, every time you see UNCLE TOM’S CABIN; and let it be a memorial to put you all in mind to follow in his steps, and be as honest and faithful and Christian as he was.” (Pg. 437)

Answers will vary.

Example; Mankind will reach eternal salvation by following the principles of Christianity and learning to love each other, regardless of race or position. Uncle Tom's Cabin is a symbol of the power of Christianity to guide all of our lives.

Chapter 45 - Concluding Remarks

Vocabulary

anecdote—story

judiciously—sensibly

1. What part of this story does the author claim to be true?

Stowe claims that the incidents are authentic. She has personally observed them or heard about them from her friends. Most of the characters in the story have a counterpart in real life.

2. Why do you think Stowe writes that she “hopes she has done justice to that nobility, generosity, and humanity, which in many cases characterize individuals at the South”?

Stowe believes there are many good people in the south who would never intentionally hurt their slaves. She claims the system of slavery is at fault because it permits brutal men to have absolute power over the lives of others.

3. In what way did the politics of the time help to motivate Stowe to write this story?

The legislative act of 1850 was passed by the Northern states. It is a law that recommends that citizens of Northern states return escaped fugitives of slavery to their owners.

4. What part of the slavery issue does Stowe say she has only given a “faint shadow, a dim picture”? (Pg. 440)

Stowe thinks the suffering of the slaves is much worse than she is able to capture in the incidents presented in the book.

5. Find a passage in this chapter where Stowe appeals to mothers everywhere to sympathize with the slave women who are separated from their children.

Answers will vary. Examples can be found in the first paragraph on page 441.

6. List two things Stowe believes an individual can do to combat the horrors of slavery. What role does she see for the church?

Stowe thinks individuals must do as they “feel right”. People must be sure their sympathies are in harmony with Christ and then follow their own consciences. Individuals must also pray. Stowe thinks the church must use its power to educate slaves.

7. Where does Stowe believe the escaping and freed slave should live?

Stowe thinks they should live in Liberia after they have been properly educated to live good Christian lives.

8. In the end, Stowe believes adherence to Christianity is the solution to the slavery issue. She has been criticized for not recommending her readers take a more active role in eliminating slavery by joining the local abolitionist groups or by violently attacking Southern plantations. Remembering that this novel was written by a woman, who at the time had no voting rights, what is your opinion of the strength of her message, and the power of this novel to influence the attitudes of her readers?

Answers will vary.

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Study Guide Student Copy

Chapter 1 - In Which the Reader is Introduced to a Man of Humanity

Vocabulary

bedropped—spotted, covered

pious—religious

grotesque—fantastic

piquant—engaging

elucidations—explanations

prevalence—dominance

counterpoise—counterbalance

patriarchal—fatherly

adroitly—skillfully

magnanimity—generosity

incredulity—disbelief

1. Briefly describe Mr. Shelby and Mr. Haley. Why do you think Mr. Shelby is referred to as having "...the appearance of a gentleman..."? (Pg. 1)
2. How does Mr. Shelby describe Tom? Why does he think Tom is a valuable slave?
3. What is ironic about the following passage from this chapter?
"I am sorry to part with Tom, I must say. You ought to let him cover the whole balance of the debt; and you would, Haley, if you had any conscience." (Pg. 2)
4. Define quadroon. Why do Eliza and her son Harry catch the eye of the slave trader?

5. Define Jim Crow. Why do you think Mr. Shelby calls Harry “Jim Crow”?
6. In the following excerpts from the story, both Mr. Shelby and Mr. Haley profess to be “humane” men. What is ironic about their claims? Who do you think Stowe is referring to in the title of this chapter, “In Which the Reader is Introduced to a Man of Humanity”?

“I would rather not sell him,” said Mr. Shelby, thoughtfully; “the fact is, sir, I’m a humane man, and I hate to take the boy from his mother, sir.”
(Pg. 5)

“And I lays it all to my management, sir; and humanity, sir, I may say, is the great pillar of *my* management.” (Pg. 6)
7. Stowe frequently breaks away from the story, in an aside, to speak directly to the reader. Find an example of an aside in this chapter.
8. Who is Tom Loker? Why did Haley “break off with him”?
9. What is the “shadow of the law” that hangs over the slaves in Kentucky? Why is slavery in Kentucky an example of the “mildest form of the system of slavery”?
10. Briefly describe Mrs. Shelby. In what way might she be called “blind”?

Chapter 2 - The Mother

Vocabulary

petted—pampered

quadroon—person of 1/4 Negro ancestry

mulatto—person of Caucasian and Negro ancestry

hemp—a tough plant refined for use as rope

chattel—slave

ebullition—outburst

tranquillized—calmed

inducement—consideration

1. Stowe is frequently criticized for racially stereotyping the slaves in this book. In what ways does she stereotype Eliza and George Harris in this chapter?
2. What does George Harris do that makes his master “...feel an uneasy consciousness of inferiority”? (Pg. 11) How does his master punish George?
3. How does George demonstrate that he is not the kind of man who can “become a thing”?
4. “A very humane jurist once said, The worst use you can put a man to is to hang him. No; there is another use that a man can be put to that is worse!” (Pg. 13)

What in George’s life is worse for him than hanging?

Chapter 3 - The Husband and Father

Vocabulary

dray-horse—horse adapted for pulling heavy loads

verandah—(usually spelled “veranda”) porch

1. In this chapter both George and Eliza express their opinions of slavery and how to survive its horrors. Briefly state their views and point out in what ways they differ.

2. What dangers does George see for his wife and son, even though they have a kind master?

3. Why does Eliza not tell George about her fear that Mr. Shelby might be planning to sell Harry?

4. How does George plan to escape his miserable life?

Chapter 4 - An Evening in Uncle Tom's Cabin

Vocabulary

multiflora rose—a thorny rose with clusters of small flowers
vestige—trace
indulgent—tolerant
frizzling—frying until crisp and curled
anon—immediately
indubitable—unquestionable
intimations—suggestions
tea-rusks—tea-bread (crispy, dry bread)
trussing—binding the wings and legs for cooking
hoe-cake—small cake made of cornmeal
dodgers—a cake that is cooked as a dumpling
compeers—masters of ceremony
congenial—pleasant
daguerreotype—photo made on a glass plate, but in this case, it means “describe”
edification—instruction
facetious—witty
sanguinary—optimistic
benighted—unenlightened
precipitately—headlong
capering—frolic
trundle bed—low bed on casters to fit under a higher bed when not in use
unction—religious intensity
obliged—favored

1. Briefly describe Aunt Chloe and Uncle Tom.
2. How do Uncle Tom and Aunt Chloe feel about George Shelby's presence in their cabin?
3. What happens in Tom's cabin after their evening meal? Why are Tom's prayers appreciated by the other slaves?

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Chapter 5 - Showing the Feelings of Living Property on Changing Owners

Vocabulary

indignation—anger

intercede—mediate

pecuniary—monetary

abolitionist—person devoted to abolishing slavery

dilated—enlarged

adieu— (from the French) farewells, good-byes

affrighted—alarmed, frightened

1. One of the themes in this book is that of the definition of Christianity includes love and forgiveness for all people as well as self-sacrifice. List two ways Tom illustrates the concept of self-sacrifice in this chapter?

2. “This is God’s curse on slavery! - a bitter, bitter, most accursed thing! - a curse to the master and a curse to the slave! I was a fool to think I could make anything good out of such a deadly evil.” (Pg. 33)

What “good” is Mrs. Shelby trying to make out of the evil of slavery? Why does she believe she has failed? For what reason is slavery a “curse to the master”?

3. Support or refute the following statement by citing incidents from the story: Tom has more courage and moral fortitude than his master.

4. At the time this story was written, some critics questioned the actions of some of the slaves in the story. They believed the slaves were not accurately portraying real life. Read the following note Eliza leaves for Mrs. Shelby. Do you find this note to be believable? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.

“O Missis! dear Missis! don’t think me ungrateful, - don’t think hard of me, any way, - I heard all you and master said to-night. I am going to try to save my boy - you will not blame me! God bless and reward you for all your kindness!” (Pg. 35)

5. Find an example of an aside in this chapter where Stowe tells the reader how to feel about Mr. Shelby’s decision to sell Tom and Harry.

Chapter 6 – Discovery

Vocabulary

connived—conspired

imps—rascals

deputing—delegating

ludicrous—absurd

officiousness—meddling

zeal—passion

1. How do Mr. and Mrs. Shelby react to the news that Eliza has fled with Harry?
2. What aspects of Black Sam's behavior support Stowe's description of him as a man who "...would have done credit to any white patriot in Washington"? (Pg. 41)
3. Many critics consider this chapter an interlude of comic relief giving the reader a break from the serious issues presented earlier in the novel. List the ways the slaves on this estate are able to manipulate the situation, all the while seemingly obeying their master.

Chapter 7 - The Mother's Struggle

Vocabulary

revered—adored
reproachfully—disgracefully
paroxysm—convulsion
sublime—splendid
constrained—hold back
turbulent—agitated
turbid—muddy
undulating—swinging
dignitary—person of dignity or honor
disobliged—inconvenienced
de novo—again, anew
artifice—trick

1. How does Eliza care for her son while they are traveling to the Ohio River?
2. Why does Eliza decide it is safe to stop at a farmhouse to buy some dinner?
3. "...you oughter think what an awful state a poor crittur's soul's in that'll do them ar things—you oughter thank God that you an't *like* him, Chloe. I'm sure I'd rather be sold, ten thousand times over, than to have all that ar poor crittur's got to answer for." (Pg. 53)

Tom is talking about Haley in the above quotation. Why does Tom feel sorry for Haley?

4. Mr. Shelby says to Tom, “My good boy,...the Lord knows you say the truth; and if I was able to help it, all the world shouldn’t buy you.” For what reasons do you believe or disbelieve the sincerity of Mr. Shelby’s statement?
5. How do Sam and Andy use Haley’s prejudices to delay Haley’s pursuit of Eliza and Harry?
6. The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 makes it a crime for anyone in a free state to assist a runaway slave from a slave state. Why then does Mr. Symmes help Eliza once she reaches the Ohio shore? Find a quotation in this chapter where Stowe breaks away from the story to lecture the reader about this kind of law.

Chapter 8 - Eliza's Escape

Vocabulary

imprecations—curses

dissonant—grating

hobble—problem

snivelling—whining

felicitation—happiness

apocryphal—fictitious

penitential—humble

alacrity—cheerful speed

olla podrida—spicy stew

dilettanti—amateur lovers of the arts

sententious—moral

1. In this chapter, Tom Loker is reintroduced. What deal does Tom Loker and Marks make with Haley?
2. What is the “greatest mod’rn improvement” Haley can think of concerning slaves? (Pg. 62)
3. Find an sarcastic passage in this chapter that criticizes the laws which protect the slave trader and slave catcher.
4. Why does Mrs. Shelby consider Sam’s story about Eliza’s escape to be apocryphal?

Chapter 9 - In Which It appears that a Senator Is but a Man

Vocabulary

abetting—supporting

vexation—irritation

beguiled—charmed

bombazine—black silk

for bore—held back

liege—faithful

expiate—amend

1. Mrs. Bird is normally a gentle, sympathetic woman. What circumstances must be present for Mrs. Bird to become passionate?
2. How does the following passage help the reader to understand why a caring man like Mr. Bird votes for the Fugitive Slave Law?
“...there is such a state of public agitation rising, that we must put aside our private feelings.” (Pg. 77)
3. Cite incidents from the story to support or refute the following statement: Good men vote for bad laws.
4. Why is Mrs. Bird particularly moved by Eliza’s problems?
5. What steps does Mr. Bird take to help Eliza?
6. Find a passage in this chapter where Stowe openly appeals to maternal sympathies.

Chapter 10 - The Property is Carried Off

Vocabulary

vehemently—emotionally

expostulations—discussions

1. Find an example of stereotyping that tries to explain Tom's feelings the morning Haley takes him away from his family.
2. Why do many slaves, who belong to kind masters, take the risk and flee to Canada? What, if anything, do you think is wrong with Stowe's explanation?
3. What vow does Mrs. Shelby make to Aunt Chloe and Uncle Tom before he leaves with Haley?
4. What does Master George give Tom? Why?

Chapter 11 - In Which Property Gets into an Improper State of Mind

Vocabulary

calico—white cotton fabric

greensward—turf green with growing grass

bonhomie—graciousness

pertinaciously—stubbornly

handbill—printed sheet for distribution

valise—traveling bag

cumbrous—heavy

obsequious—flattering attentiveness

1. Why does the long-legged veteran tell Mr. Wilson he would like to brand George's master?
2. Who is Mr. Butler of Oaklands, Shelby County? Why does he invite Mr. Wilson to his room?
3. For what reasons does Mr. Wilson believe it is wrong for George to run away from his master? What does he agree to do to help George?
4. What is George implying when he says "All men are free and equal in the grave"? (Pg. 112)
5. At the end of the chapter Mr. Wilson tries again to convince George to trust God. What does George finally agree to "think of" in the last line of the chapter?

Chapter 12 - Select Incident of Lawful Trade

Vocabulary

supposititious—illegitimate

trepidation—fear

worsted—yarn

1. What evidence is there that Stowe believes the idea of a happy, cheerful slave is ludicrous?
2. How are the two white women's opinions of slavery different?
3. Briefly state the two opposing views of slavery found in the Bible.
4. Find an example of sarcasm in this chapter when Stowe is criticizing the lawmakers for permitting slave trading inside the country, even after it has long been outlawed to import slaves from Africa.
5. In what way does Tom try and help Lucy? Is he successful? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.

Chapter 13 - The Quaker Settlement

Vocabulary

gentry—folks

betimes—early

1. Briefly describe Rachel Halliday. Why are Eliza and Harry staying in her home?
2. Some of the characters in this book undergo a change. How does George's view of religion begin to change at the end of the chapter?
3. George is worried that the Hallidays are putting themselves at risk by helping him and his family. How does Simeon put George's mind at ease?

Chapter 14 – Evangeline

Vocabulary

bignonia—vines

propitiate—pacify

furbishing—polishing

sarcastic—witty

expatiating—speaking at length

1. How is Tom's Bible different from other Bibles? What does the Bible mean to Tom as he reads it traveling to an unknown fate?
2. Find a passage stereotyping blacks and describing Tom's reaction to Eva.
3. Briefly describe Eva.
4. Why do you think Tom tries to make friends with Eva? How does he accomplish it?

5. Why does Eva want her father to buy Tom?

6. Find an example of sarcasm in the conversation between Mr. St. Clare and Haley.

7. What evidence is there that Mr. St. Clare, despite his good intentions, can not view Tom as an individual?

Chapter 15 - Of Tom's New Master and Various Other Matters

Vocabulary

constitution—body

badinage—banter, animated joking

obtuseness—insensitivity

caprices—whims

ennui—boredom

menage—household

milliner—womens' hats

parasol—umbrella

hem stitched—decorative needlework

inexorable—relentless

impudent—scorn, disdain

pellucid—clear

cambric—white linen

alacrity—eagerness

1. Briefly identify each of the following characters living in the St. Clare New Orleans home.

Marie St. Clare –

Ophelia –

Mr. Adolph –

Mammy –

Chapter 16 - Tom's Mistress and Her Opinions

Vocabulary

peroration—speech

impudence—boldness

fastidious—demanding

1. What is ironic about Marie St. Clare's opinion that Mammy is selfish?

2. In the following passage Marie complains about her husband's attitude towards their slaves.
"He says we have made them what they are, and ought to bear with them.
He says their faults are all owing to us, and that it would be cruel to make
the fault and punish it too." (Pg. 172)

In what ways is Augustine's attitude toward their slaves different from Marie's?

3. Why does Marie want to send unruly slaves to the calaboose?

4. How does Ophelia think slaveholders ought to treat their slaves? Why?

5. "Not that there is a particle of virtue in our not having it; but custom with us does what Christianity ought to do, - obliterates the feeling of personal prejudice. I have often noticed, in my travels north, how much stronger this was with you than with us." (Pg. 176)

How does Augustine St. Clare, in the above passage, criticize the Northerners for their behavior toward blacks?

6. What does the following passage from this chapter tell the reader about Augustine's opinion of Tom and Augustine's religious beliefs?

“...and he the most wonderful Tom that ever wore a black skin. This is one of the roses of Eden that the Lord has dropped down expressly for the poor and lowly, who get few enough of any other kind.” (Pg. 176)

7. Why does Eva want to go to church, even though the services make her sleepy?
8. What is Augustine's opinion of the religious leaders who claim the Bible supports slavery?
9. “I say, what do you think, Pussy?” said her father to Eva, who came in at this moment, with a flower in her hand.
“What about, papa?”
“Why, which do you like the best, - to live as they do at your uncle's, up in Vermont, or to have a house full of servants, as we do?”
“O, of course, our way is the pleasantest,” said Eva.
“Why so?” said St. Clare, stroking her head.
“Why, it makes so many more round you to love, you know,” said Eva, looking up earnestly. (Pg. 183)

How do you interpret Eva's statements about slavery in the above quotation? Do you think she supports it, or could her statements have a different meaning?

Chapter 17 - The Freeman's Defence

Vocabulary

irresolution—uncertainty

bestir—get going

1. Who is Phineas Fletcher? How is he different from the other Quakers?
2. Some critics believe that Stowe thinks the black race has more right to eternal salvation than whites. Cite incidents from this chapter to support or refute this statement.
3. How do the men tracking George and his family react to his statement, “We don’t own your laws; we don’t own your country; we stand here as free, under God’s sky, as you are; and, by the great God that made us, we’ll fight for our liberty till we die”? (Pg. 195)
4. Why does Phineas stop to help Tom Loker? What do you think is going to happen to Tom in the Quaker house?

Chapter 18 - Miss Ophelia's Experiences and Opinions

Vocabulary

solicitude—care

rusticity—rural

incipient—starting

sanguine—optimistic

rusks—crisp breads

1. Why do you think Tom tries to get Mr. St. Clare to take better care of himself and stop drinking?
2. Find an example of stereotyping in Stowe's description of Dinah.
3. Support or refute the following statement. Dinah is a strict master, a cooking genius, and a very disorganized person.
4. Why are Ophelia's efforts to put the household in order compared to Sisyphus, from Greek Mythology?
5. For what reasons does Augustine St. Clare believe it is inevitable that slaves grow up to be dishonest?
6. Why does Prue state that she would rather go to "torment" than to heaven? What new "horror" of slavery is revealed by Prue's life story?

Chapter 19 - Miss Ophelia's Experiences and Opinions, Continued

Vocabulary

selectman—local authority

veneration—respect

punctilious—careful

cavil—raise an objection

1. Why doesn't St. Clare report Prue's death to the authorities?
2. St. Clare tells Ophelia that he, and many other Southerners, know that slavery is wrong. If he feels this way, why does he own slaves? Why doesn't he free his slaves?
3. How does St. Clare's father justify permitting Mr. Stubbs to occasionally be cruel to his slaves?
4. What justification does Alfred, Augustine's twin brother, give for using hundreds of slaves to run his plantation?
5. Why did Augustine leave the plantation he and his brother inherited to make a life for himself in New Orleans?
6. What do you think Eva means when she says "...these things sink into my heart"? (Pg. 233)
7. Since St. Clare is so against slavery, why doesn't he return Tom to his family?

Chapter 20 – Topsy

Vocabulary

sanctimonious—hypocritical

ineffaceable—permanent

laudanum—opium

1. Briefly describe Topsy when she arrives at the St. Clare home.
2. How does St. Clare convince Ophelia that she should try to educate Topsy?
3. Where was Topsy living before St. Clare brought her home? Where are her parents?
4. Briefly describe Ophelia's ideas of education. How does Ophelia demonstrate the Christian principle of self-sacrifice when she is working with Topsy?
5. Why does Topsy confess to stealing Eva's necklace and Rosa's earrings?

6. Compare Topsy and Eva. In what ways is the character Topsy a foil for Eva? Which character do you think will have the greater influence over the other? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.
7. Support or refute the following statement: Topsy is an appropriate name for this child because of the impact she has on the Clare household.
8. For what reasons does St. Clare refuse to whip his slaves?
9. How does Topsy manage to keep the other servants from tormenting her?
10. Overall, what do you think Stowe is saying about the complexity of the slavery issue in the South?

Chapter 21 - Kentuck

1. How is Aunt Chloe planning to help Tom?

Chapter 22 - “The Grass Withereth - The Flower Fadeth”

Vocabulary

assiduously—persistently

1. Find an example of foreshadowing in this chapter.
2. What does Eva want to do with the money from her mother’s jewels?
3. What evidence is there that St. Clare knows Eva is dying?

Chapter 23 – Henrique

Vocabulary

canaille—riffraff

1. Briefly describe Henrique.
2. Why is Alfred St. Clare planning to send Henrique North to be educated?
3. For what reasons is Alfred against educating the black race?
4. Why does Eva make Henrique promise to try and love Dodo?

Chapter 24 – Foreshadowings

Vocabulary

consumption—tuberculosis

rumpussed—made a noisy commotion

1. How does Marie feel about Eva's impending death?
2. Why does Eva say to Tom, "I would die for them, Tom, if I could"? (Pg. 274)
3. For what reason does Eva say that she wishes their slaves were free?
4. List two things Eva wants her father to do after her death.

Chapter 25 - The Little Evangelist

Vocabulary

shilly-shally—wavering

1. Why does Topsy not at least try to be good?
2. How does Eva finally convince Topsy to try to be good?
3. Ophelia overhears the conversation between Topsy and Eva. What does she learn?

Chapter 26 – Death

Vocabulary

damask—bright fabric

eldrich—strange

1. Why does Eva ask Topsy to fill her vase with flowers everyday?
2. For what reason does Eva give each of the servants a lock of her hair?
3. What is Eva's definition of being a Christian?

Chapter 27 - “This is the Last of Earth.”

1. How has Ophelia's attitude toward Topsy changed since Eva's death?
2. In what ways has Marie changed since her daughter's death?
3. How does St. Clare test Tom's faith? Why does Tom stay by St. Clare's side?

Chapter 28 – Reunion

Vocabulary

ciphers—numerals

invectives—insults

representations—formal protests

1. List two ways St. Clare becomes “another man” after Eva’s death.
2. How does Tom explain to St. Clare his desire to be free, even though it means he will not live as well without St. Clare’s protection and money?
3. Why does Ophelia insist that St. Clare immediately sign the papers legally transferring ownership of Topsy to herself?
4. List the reasons St. Clare thinks life would be difficult for freed slaves.
5. In what ways does the following quotation apply to today’s world?
“We are in a bad position. We are the more *obvious* oppressors of the negro; but the unchristian prejudice of the north is an oppressor almost equally severe.” (Pg. 313)
6. Why do you think St. Clare is often thinking about his mother? State a theme for this story concerning the power of women, particularly mothers, to influence the world.
7. What does the last paragraph in this chapter imply about St. Clare’s final fate?

Chapter 29 - The Unprotected

Vocabulary

crestfallen—dejected

conciliatory—agreeable

1. How does Stowe explain the grief slaves feel when a kind master dies?
2. Why is Rosa nearly hysterical over the prospect of a whipping?
3. Support or refute the following statement by citing incidents from the chapter: Ophelia does all she can to try and help Tom.

Chapter 30 - The Slave Warehouse

Vocabulary

obstinacy—stubbornness

1. How are the slaves in the warehouse treated by the dealers?
2. The dealers try to get the slaves to act cheerful. Why do the slaves comply with their directions?
3. Briefly describe Susan and Emmeline. How does Stowe criticize the northern position on slavery by presenting their story?
4. Briefly identify Simon Legree. What is Tom's first impression of him?
5. What is Stowe saying about men who make a profit by selling slaves, as revealed in the last paragraph of the chapter?

“On the reverse of that draft, so obtained, let them write these words of the great Paymaster, to whom they shall make up their account in a future day: “When he maketh inquisition for blood, he forgetteth not the cry of the humble!” (Pg. 334)

Chapter 31 - The Middle Passage

Vocabulary

debauchery—sinfulness

sauntered—strolled

1. What voice does Tom hear that Legree will never hear as shown in this excerpt?
“Fear not! for I have redeemed thee. I have called thee by my name.
Thou are MINE!”
But Simon Legree heard no voice. That voice is one he never shall hear.
He only glared for a moment on the downcast face of Tom, and walked off. (Pg. 336)
2. In what way does the stranger on the ship insult Legree without Legree realizing it?
“Tell ye, sir, the flesh on’t has come jest like a stone, practicing on niggers, - feel on it.”
The stranger applied his fingers to the implement in question and simply said,
“ ‘Tis hard enough; and, I suppose,” he added, “practice has made your heart just like it.” (Pg. 337-338)
3. Why does the stranger tell his friend that “It is your respectability and humanity that licenses and protects his brutality”? (Pg. 339)

Chapter 32 - Dark Places

Vocabulary

fettered—shackled

wistful—sad

potentates—rulers; kings

1. Briefly describe Legree's plantation.

2. Who are Sambo and Quimbo? How does Legree govern his plantation workers?

3. Describe the first act of charity Tom commits on Legree's plantation?

4. Cite incidents, from the end of this chapter, to support or refute the following statement:
Tom has not lost his faith in God while living in this terrible place.

Chapter 33 – Cassy

Vocabulary

unremitting—total

disdain—anger

1. For what reasons does Legree dislike Tom?

2. Briefly describe Cassy. What power does she seem to have over Sambo, Quimbo, and Legree?

3. Why do you think Cassy stays by Tom's side on their way to the fields? What does she do to support Tom?

4. What does Tom say to Legree that surprises him and sends a "thrill of amazement" through the other slaves? (Pg. 355)

5. How does Tom react to the following question from Legree?
"Didn't I pay down twelve hundred dollars cash, for all there is inside yer old cussed black shell? An't yer mine, now, body and soul?" he said, giving Tom a violent kick with his heavy boot; "tell me!" (Pg. 355)

Chapter 34 - The Quadroon's Story

Vocabulary

imperious—dominant

1. How does Tom respond when Cassy tells him “You are in the devil’s hands; - he is the strongest, and you must give up!”? (Pg. 357)
2. Why doesn’t Cassy’s father marry her mother? How does his wife treat Cassy after his death?
3. How does Cassy feel about her new master? Why does he sell her and their children?
4. Why does Cassy kill her third child?

Chapter 35 - The Tokens

Vocabulary

reproof—reprimand

1. How do Cassy's sporadic episodes of raving insanity help her to control Legree?
2. What is the "Something that niggers gets from witches. Keeps 'em from feelin' when they's flogged"? (Pg. 369)
3. Why is Legree afraid of the curling yellow hair?

Chapter 36 - Emmeline and Cassy

Vocabulary

retribution—vengeance

abyss—deep pit

insensate—without sense

1. Why doesn't Cassy kill herself?
2. What advice does Cassy give Emmeline on how to survive in Legree's household?
3. Why does Legree decide to put off dealing with Tom?

Chapter 37 – Liberty

Vocabulary

prudent—wise

exuberant—joyful

1. How does Tom Loker help George and Eliza?
2. What is the meaning of the word “freedom” to George?

Chapter 38 - The Victory

Vocabulary

exultant—triumphant

scanty—few; minimal

1. What is the “...true searching test of what there may be in man or woman”? (Pg. 386)
2. How does Legree, unwittingly, help Tom hold onto his faith? In what ways does Tom change after talking to Legree?
3. Why does Legree cry out and say “What have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? - art thou come to torment us before the time”? (Pg. 329)
4. Cite incidents from the chapter to support or refute the following statement: Tom is a coward when he refuses to kill Legree when Cassy gives him the chance.
5. Why do you think Cassy is miraculously, after many years of captivity, able to think of a plan so that she and Emmeline can escape?

Chapter 39 - The Stratagem

Vocabulary

garret—unfinished part

opulent—wealthy

desuetude—disuse

appurtenances—accessories

lugubrious—mournful

paternatural—psychic

execrations—curses

flambeaux—flaming torches

1. Briefly outline Cassy's escape plan.
2. Cite incidents from the story to support or refute the following statement. Cassy only tries to scare Emmeline with her knife; she has no intention of hurting the girl.

Chapter 40 - The Martyr

Vocabulary

curvetting—prancing

1. Why is Cassy unable to pray?
2. In the following passage, Tom tells Legree that he would die for him. Some modern critics of this book claim that the character of Uncle Tom tries to please his white master and lacks the strength to fight for his freedom. What evidence is there in this chapter to support or refute this idea?

“Mas’r, if you was sick, or in trouble, or dying, and I could save ye, I’d *give* ye my heart’s blood; and, if taking every drop of blood in this poor old body would save your precious soul, I’d give ‘em freely, as the Lord gave His for me.” (Pg. 410)

3. In what ways is Tom’s death similar to Eva’s? How are Sambo and Quimbo like Topsy?

Chapter 41 - The Young Master

Vocabulary

impetuous—passionate

vehemence—intensity

1. What final messages does Tom want George to deliver to Aunt Chloe?
2. How do Tom's final words offer the slaves and the slaveholders hope for their futures?

“Who, - who, - who shall separate us from the love of Christ!” (Pg. 417)
3. Why doesn't George report Tom's murder to the authorities?
4. George has the money to buy Tom. At Tom's grave he swears to do what one man can to drive slavery from his land. Why then, do you think George does not buy the men who help him bury Tom?

Chapter 42 - An Authentic Ghost Story

Vocabulary

perspicuous—clear

pneumatology—study of spiritual beings

rencontre—hostile meeting

obsequious—subservient

1. How do Cassy and Emmeline manage to sneak away from Legree's garret?
2. It is not uncommon for authors in the 1800's to tie up all the loose ends of their stories at the end of their books. How does Stowe wrap up the story of Cassy's life?

Chapter 43 – Results

Vocabulary

escutcheon—stern

1. Why do George and his family want to leave the country to live in Liberia, Africa? How does he think he can combat slavery in America by relocating to Africa?
2. What happens to Emmeline and Topsy?
3. Do any of the characters who manage to escape slavery opt to stay in America? What do you think of Stowe's decision to write their "happy" endings in this way?

Chapter 45 - Concluding Remarks

Vocabulary

anecdote—story

judiciously—sensibly

1. What part of this story does the author claim to be true?
2. Why do you think Stowe writes that she “hopes she has done justice to that nobility, generosity, and humanity, which in many cases characterize individuals at the South”?
3. In what way did the politics of the time help to motivate Stowe to write this story?
4. What part of the slavery issue does Stowe say she has only given a “faint shadow, a dim picture”? (Pg. 440)
5. Find a passage in this chapter where Stowe appeals to mothers everywhere to sympathize with the slave women who are separated from their children.

6. List two things Stowe believes an individual can do to combat the horrors of slavery. What role does she see for the church?

7. Where does Stowe believe the escaping and freed slave should live?

8. In the end, Stowe believes adherence to Christianity is the solution to the slavery issue. She has been criticized for not recommending her readers take a more active role in eliminating slavery by joining the local abolitionist groups or by violently attacking Southern plantations. Remembering that this novel was written by a woman, who at the time had no voting rights, what is your opinion of the strength of her message, and the power of this novel to influence the attitudes of her readers?

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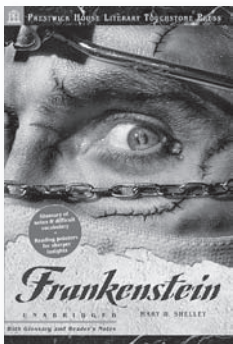
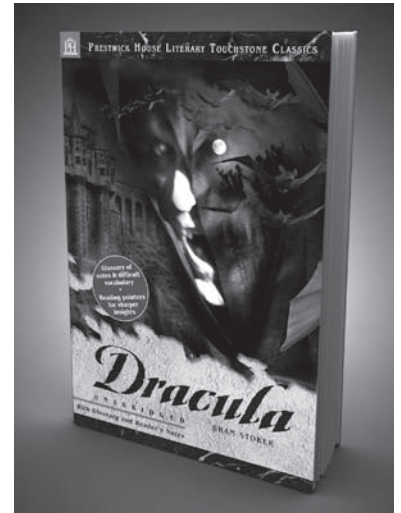
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