

Uncle Tom's Cabin

1) How many died in the American Civil War?

- 600,000

2) Why did slavery grow in the South? What did Southerner's call slavery?

- “Economic reasons”, increase in tobacco, sugar, rice, and cotton.
- The southerner called slavery “That Peculiar Institution”.

3) What did Abolitionists want?

- They sponsored lecture circuits and published literature both fiction and biography to have “political change” to stop slavery.

4) What were Slave Narratives? Why were they important?

- They began to add their voice to the tradition of American autobiography.
- They built on the emotional power of captivity narratives and used the authority of the bible. “a chosen people delivered from bondage”.

5) In what year was Uncle Tom's Cabin published?

- 1852.

6) It was the second-best seller in America in the 19th Century. What was the first?

- The Bible.

7) How was the novel “Sensational”?

- More dramatic, unrealistic.

8) How did Stowe use “Sentimentalism” in her novel?

- Appeal to emotions to give the novel its power. to make you feel another person's pain, such that you want to do something about it.

9) Why and how does Eliza escape?

- To save her young son.

- By crossing a river.

10) How does Stowe address the reader directly in the text? Who is her implied reader?

- She switches to 2nd narrative.
- White mother.

11) What did Abraham Lincoln say to Harriet Beecher Stowe when he met her?

- “So here’s the little lady that started this big war.”, revelation of slavery.

12) In what was is the novel racist?

- Black people were being abused.
- White girl is described as an angel.

Uncle Tom's Cabin & Domestic Fiction

- **The 19th century authorship:**
 - Not a true profession.
 - Ideology on “The Angel in The House” & “True Womanhood” kept women out of the public sphere and in the private sphere.
 - To step outside domesticity for reasons of ambition threatened one's reputation as a “womanly woman”.
 - Writing for necessity—to earn a living—was acceptable for women authors.
- **It was only acceptable for woman to be an author in these cases:**
 - Writing for church papers.
 - Writing for reform (abolitionist tracts, prison reform, temperance).
 - Writing on domestic issues.
 - Women's fiction. (“Domestic fiction”, “sentimental fiction”)
- **Uncle Tom's Cabin is seen as a Domestic Heroine.**
- **Domestic Fiction:**
 - Immersion in feeling (rather than reason) a danger.
 - Marriage. (reforming the bad make. Marrying the solid make who already meets her qualifications.)
 - The novels may use a “language of tears” that evokes sympathy from the readers.
- **Hawthorne's Reaction:**
 - He was frustrated because women writers were selling books more than he is.
- **The explosion of literary marketplace (1850s):**
 - Fiction was seen as reading material of choice.

- Spectacular boom of Sentimental Fiction: fiction written largely by women, about women, for women.
- **What role did Uncle Tom's Cabin play in the slavery debate?**
 - The book stressed the moral evil of slavery.
 - Southerners protested that it did not portray slavery accurately.
 - Abolitionist protests increased.
 - Increased protest in north.
 - Pushed more people into abolition (care about slavery).
 - Showed how badly slaves were treated in the south.
 - They came with "The Fugitive Slave Act", which was against slaves.
- **Plot of the story:**
 - Slave owner sells Uncle Tom and Eliza to keep land.
 - Eliza runs away with her son. escapes capture by crossing the frozen Ohio River.
 - Uncle Tom is taken on riverboat down Mississippi River.
 - Tom bought and taken to New Orleans.
 - Tom is beat to death just as one of his previous owners come to buy him back.
 - New family moves to France then Liberia.
- **Why did Northerners resent to Fugitive Slave Act?**
 - It required Northerners to recapture slaves.
 - It placed fines on people who would not cooperate and jail terms on people who helped fugitives escape.
 - Slave catchers roamed the North, which brought home the issue of slavery to Northerners.
 - It made them feel they had to support slavery.

Uncle Tom's Cabin Chapter 7

1) Who is Eliza thinking of when she decides to run?

- Her child and her husband.

2) Is she glad to leave the slave plantation?

- Yes, but she was frightened.

3) What 2 things give her extra strength?

- Her connection to her child, and her faith in God.

4) How does Stowe address the reader directly on p.782?

- To put the reader in the slave's position to show empathy.

5) What is the "spirit within" that helps her?

- Her child.

6) What is Chloe's attitude towards Haley, the slavecatcher? In what way does she help Eliza?

- She says that Mr. Haley is going to hell with Jake, one of the other slaves.
- Delay Mr. Haley in his pursuit of Eliza.

7) Does the use of dialect enhance the story?

- It shows how black people talk by exaggerating it.

8) What is Chloe's status among the slaves?

- She was crying and telling them the kind of suffering a slave goes through by separation.

9) Summarise Tom's discussion with Chloe (p.785). What do we learn about Tom here?

- He tries to give her hope by saying that her situation is far more better than Haley's.

- He is a very patient man.

10) Why does Tom “pity” Haley?

- Because he knows that she done a bad thing in her life and that she would be punished for by god.

11) What is Tom’s attitude to his master (p785)?

- He feels sad that he had to leave him because he known him since he was a baby.

12) Why is Tom so loyal? Is his loyalty a virtue?

- He helps raising his master since he was a baby.
- Yes, it is.

13) How does Mr and Mrs Shelby feel about Haley?

- They were annoyed by her.

Uncle Tom's Cabin Chapter 12

1) Why do Tom and Haley arrive in Washington?

- They were interested in buying and selling slaves.

2) Why does Haley refuse to buy the boy's mother?

- Because she was old, she thought that she isn't useful.

3) In what conditions are the slaves kept on board the boat bound for New Orleans?

- They were chained together and were kept underneath.

4) How does the woman react to learning about the bill of sale? What is so shocking about this piece of news?

- She was shocked, and disappointed.
- She thought that she was going to work in Louisville with her husband, instead she found out that her master sold her and her baby.

5) Why does the stranger admire the woman's ten-and-a-half months old baby?

- Because the baby was uncommonly large and strong of his age, and very vigorous in his limbs.

6) How does Haley take the child away for sale?

- When they land in Louisville, the mother lays the child down in a cradle made of boxes, and then goes to the side of the boat, hoping she'll see her husband. While she is at the side of the boat, Haley tells the man who bought the child to take him now. That way there will be less fuss. When the woman returns, Haley is sitting there, and the child is gone.

7) What justification does Haley give her for the sale?

- That he meant to do well by her, and that she is taking Lucy to a nice place down river and that she would get remarried.

8) How does Tom try to console her? How does she react to this?

- Offering Christian consultant, that she will reunite with her child in Heaven.

9) How does Tom react to the suicide?

- He was calm, he didn't do anything about it.

10) How does this chapter illustrate Stowe's use of Domestic, or "Sentimental" fiction?

- By using the "language of tears" that evokes sympathy from the readers.
- The narrator elaborates for us that the trader is an unfeeling man, but it is we, society, who have created such a horrible specimen of humanity. We are to blame.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1845).

- **His mother was black, his father was white.**
- **He never met his father; rumours say that his father was a master.**
- **He was taken away from his mother at a very early age.**
- **He only saw his mother 4 times in his life, all were short duration and at night.**
- **She died from illness.**
- **Frederick Douglass emotions toward his mother:**
 - *“For what this separation is done, I do not know, unless it be to hinder the development of the child's affection toward its mother, and to blunt and destroy the natural affection of the mother for the child. This is the inevitable result”.*
 - *“I received the tidings of her death with much the same emotions I should have probably felt at the death of a stranger”.*

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1845).

Chapter 2

1) Why do the slaves sing in this passage?

- They would sing to reveal at one the highest joy and the deepest sadness.

2) How does Douglass correct some misconceptions about slavery that his (white) readers might have here?

- He explained how slaves react to their situations by singing and praying.
- The word that they sing is full of meaning to themselves.
- **Further Explanations *Not important:** From a slave understanding, the tones were loud, long, and deep; they breathed the prayer and complaint of souls boiling over with the bitterest.
- *“Every tone was a testimony against slavery, and a prayer to God for deliverance from chains”.*

3) Douglass did not understand the meaning of these songs at the time. Why?

- He thought that these songs were to *“impress some minds”* with the horrible character of slavery, then reading of whole volumes of philosophy on the subject could do.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1845).

Chapter 6

1) This scene has been described as an “epiphany” for Douglass. What does he realize in this paragraph?

- *“I understood the pathway from slavery to freedom”.*

2) How does Douglass react to his master’s decision not to educate him?

- He was calm, he let his master’s words sink in and he realize a special revelation, *“I understood the pathway from slavery to freedom”.*
- *“I was gladdened by the invaluable instruction which, by the merest accident, I had gained from my master”.*

3) What does this event teach the narrator about the nature of his master’s superiority and his inferiority?

- The master had control of his slave because he didn’t know how to read or write, the master was afraid that if the slave learned how to write and read, he would fight for other rights for himself.
- Making the slave weak and disabled is the only way to control him.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1845).

Chapter 9:

- **Mr Thomas (Fredrick's master), thought that Fredrick was unsuitable to his purpose as a slave.**
- **He decided to send Fredrick to Edward Covey.**
- **Mr. Covey was a poor farmer who had a reputation for breaking slaves, and to train them.**

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1845).

Chapter 10:

- **At first, Fredrick was feeling awkward living with Mr. Covey.**
- **In his first day he was tortured by Mr. Covey.**
- **Mr. Covey had a way of taking control of the slaves that he would sneak up on them by a surprise. He was called “The Snake”.**
- **Mr. Covey would spend his time in his bed, and he would wake up in the evening to urge the slaves at to torture them.**
- **Mr. Covey devoted his life to planning and perpetrating the grossest deceptions.**
- **In a few months of Mr. Covey’s discipline, he succeeded in breaking him. *“I was broken in body, soul, and spirit”.***
- **Mr. Covey bought a female slave and he forced her to get pregnant by another slave just to add to his wealth.**
- **Fredrick had thought many times in taking his own life but was prevented by a combination of hope and fear.**
- **He decided to go to his master seeking his protection, but the master told him that he expected to deserve the whipping, and that Mr. Covey was a good man and he asked him to go back to Mr. Covey in the morning.**
- **As he was hiding from Mr. Covey beating, he met with a slave Sandy Jenkins who had a free wife. He invited him to his house.**
- **He then advises Fredrick to go back but he had to take a *root* which would protect him from beating.**
- **Mr. Covey tried to tie his legs, but Fredrick fought back.**
- **After fighting back, Mr. Covey never laid a finger upon him.**

- *“This battle with Mr. Covey was the turning-point in my career as a slave”, “and inspired me again with a determination to be free”.*