

**Chapter 1 : Harriet Beecher Stowe - HISTORY**

*Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin, In Harriet Beecher Stowe published her bestselling antislavery novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. The novel's success was astronomical, eclipsed only by sales of the Bible.*

The cabin where Henson lived while he was enslaved no longer exists, but a cabin on the Riley farm erroneously thought to be the Henson Cabin was purchased by the Montgomery County, Maryland, government in 1977. American Slavery As It Is: In Cincinnati the Underground Railroad had local abolitionist sympathizers and was active in efforts to help runaway slaves on their escape route from the South. It was originally intended as a shorter narrative that would run for only a few weeks. Stowe expanded the story significantly, however, and it was instantly popular, such that several protests were sent to the Era office when she missed an issue. Jewett contacted Stowe about turning the serial into a book. Convinced the book would be popular, Jewett made the unusual decision for the time to have six full-page illustrations by Hammatt Billings engraved for the first printing. A number of other editions were soon printed including a deluxe edition in 1852, featuring illustrations by Billings. At that point, however, "demand came to an unexpected halt" for Jewett and Company. The book opens with a Kentucky farmer named Arthur Shelby facing the loss of his farm because of debts. When Eliza overhears Mr. Shelby discussing plans to sell Tom and Harry, Eliza determines to run away with her son. The novel states that Eliza made this decision because she fears losing her only surviving child she had already miscarried two children. Eliza departs that night, leaving a note of apology to her mistress. Tom is sold and placed on a riverboat which sets sail down the Mississippi River. While on board, Tom meets and befriends a young white girl named Eva. Clare buys Tom from the slave trader and takes him with the family to their home in New Orleans. Tom and Eva begin to relate to one another because of the deep Christian faith they both share. They decide to attempt to reach Canada. However, they are tracked by a slave hunter named Tom Loker. Eventually Loker and his men trap Eliza and her family, causing George to shoot him in the side. Worried that Loker may die, Eliza convinces George to bring the slave hunter to a nearby Quaker settlement for medical treatment. Back in New Orleans, St. Clare debates slavery with his Northern cousin Ophelia who, while opposing slavery, is prejudiced against black people. Clare, however, believes he is not biased, even though he is a slave owner. In an attempt to show Ophelia that her views on blacks are wrong, St. Clare purchases Topsy, a young black slave, and asks Ophelia to educate her. After Tom has lived with the St. Clares for two years, Eva grows very ill. Before she dies she experiences a vision of heaven, which she shares with the people around her. As a result of her death and vision, the other characters resolve to change their lives, with Ophelia promising to throw off her personal prejudices against blacks, Topsy saying she will better herself, and St. Clare pledging to free Tom. Tom is sold to Simon Legree before St. Clare can follow through on his pledge, however, he dies after being stabbed outside of a tavern. Jewett and Company, Cassy was previously separated from her son and daughter when they were sold; unable to endure the pain of seeing another child sold, she killed her third child. At this point Tom Loker returns to the story. Loker has changed as the result of being healed by the Quakers. George, Eliza, and Harry have also obtained their freedom after crossing into Canada. In Louisiana, Uncle Tom almost succumbs to hopelessness as his faith in God is tested by the hardships of the plantation. However, he has two visions, one of Jesus and one of Eva, which renew his resolve to remain a faithful Christian, even unto death. He encourages Cassy to escape, which she does, taking Emmeline with her. As Tom is dying, he forgives the overseers who savagely beat him. Humbled by the character of the man they have killed, both men become Christians. Cassy discovers that Eliza is her long-lost daughter who was sold as a child. Now that their family is together again, they travel to France and eventually Liberia, the African nation created for former American slaves. George Shelby returns to the Kentucky farm and frees all his slaves. Major characters

Main article: Uncle Tom, the title character, was initially seen as a noble, long-suffering Christian slave. In more recent years, however, his name has become an epithet directed towards African-Americans who are accused of selling out to whites. Stowe intended Tom to be a "noble hero" [28] and praiseworthy person. Throughout the book, far from allowing himself to be exploited, Tom stands up for his beliefs and is grudgingly admired even by his

enemies. Eliza Eliza is a slave and personal maid to Mrs. Shelby who escapes to the North with her five-year-old son Harry after he is sold to Mr. According to Rankin, in February a young slave woman, Eliza Harris, had escaped across the frozen Ohio River to the town of Ripley with her child in her arms and stayed at his house on her way further north. Clare is the daughter of Augustine St. Eva enters the narrative when Uncle Tom is traveling via steamship to New Orleans to be sold, and he rescues the five- or six-year-old girl from drowning. Eva begs her father to buy Tom, and he becomes the head coachman at the St. He spends most of his time with the angelic Eva. Eva often talks about love and forgiveness, even convincing the dour slave girl Topsy that she deserves love. She even touches the heart of her Aunt Ophelia. Eventually Eva falls terminally ill. Before dying, she gives a lock of her hair to each of the slaves, telling them that they must become Christians so that they may see each other in Heaven. On her deathbed, she convinces her father to free Tom, but because of circumstances the promise never materializes. The Flower of the South by Philip J. Cozans although this ironically was an anti-Tom novel. Simon Legree is a cruel slave ownerâ€”a Northerner by birthâ€”whose name has become synonymous with greed. The novel reveals that, as a young man, he had abandoned his sickly mother for a life at sea and ignored her letter to see her one last time at her deathbed. He sexually exploits Cassy, who despises him, and later sets his designs on Emmeline. It is unclear if Legree is based on any actual individuals. Reports surfaced after the s that Stowe had in mind a wealthy cotton and sugar plantation owner named Meredith Calhoun , who settled on the Red River north of Alexandria, Louisiana. Generally, however, the personal characteristics of Calhoun "highly educated and refined" do not match the uncouthness and brutality of Legree. Shelby is characterized as a "kind" slaveowner and a stereotypical Southern gentleman. She is a deeply religious woman who strives to be a kind and moral influence upon her slaves and is appalled when her husband sells his slaves with a slave trader. As a woman, she has no legal way to stop this, as all property belongs to her husband. Clare is complex, often sarcastic, with a ready wit. After a rocky courtship he marries a woman he grows to hold in contempt, though he is too polite to let it show. Clare recognizes the evil in chattel slavery but is not willing to relinquish the wealth it brings him. He plans on finally taking action against slavery by freeing his slaves, but his good intentions ultimately come to nothing. Clare â€” Wife of Augustine, she is a self-absorbed woman without a hint of compassion for those around her, including her own family. Given to an unending list of apparently imaginary physical maladies, she continually complains about the lack of sympathy she is receiving. She has separated her personal maid, Mammy, from her own two children because they would interfere with her duties. As Marie drives Mammy to exhaustion, she criticizes her for selfishly seeking to attend her own family. Upon the unexpected death of Augustine, Marie countermands the legal process that would have given Tom his freedom. An intelligent and clever half-white slave who is fiercely loyal to his family. Little Eva and Topsy by John R. Neill , Topsy â€” A young slave girl. During the early-to-mid 20th century, several doll manufacturers created Topsy and Topsy-type dolls. The phrase "grewed like Topsy" later "grew like Topsy" passed into the English language, originally with the specific meaning of unplanned growth, later sometimes just meaning enormous growth. She displays the ambiguities towards African-Americans felt by many Northerners at the time. She argues against the institution of slavery yet, at least initially, feels repulsed by the slaves as individuals. Prue â€” A depressed slave who was forced to let her child starve to death. She takes up drinking in her misery, and is ultimately beaten and killed for it. Quimbo and Sambo â€” slaves of Simon Legree who act as overseers of the plantation. On orders from Legree, they savagely whip Tom but afterward tearfully repent of their deeds to Tom, who forgives them as he lies dying. Stowe made it somewhat subtle and in some cases she weaved it into events that would also support the dominant theme. One example of this is when Augustine St. Clare is killed, he attempted to stop a brawl between two inebriated men in a cafe and was stabbed.

**Chapter 2 : LECTURE NOTES FOR HARRIET BEECHER STOWE**

*Harriet Beecher Stowe's, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is a book worth reading. Inside the cover of this old time favorite, Stowe easily takes readers inside the minds the slaves, the slave owners, and those with abolitionist-like minds.*

Novelist Teacher Harriet was the sixth of 11 children born to influential minister, Rev. Eventually the Beecher family grew to 13 individuals. The Beecherstowe expected their children to change and form their world into something greater than what it was. Little did they know that their children would actually do this. All seven Beecher sons became ministers, in that era the best way to influence society. Catharine, oldest daughter, changed and lead better education for women. Her main purpose was to work and expose the social injustice that America was displaying " human enslavement. Thus, oldest sister, Catharine became the influential mother for Stowe, as well as her siblings. Later in life Stowe had a pursuit for the arts of drawing and painting which washer tribute and honoring of her mother. Stowe initially thought that there would only be three or four publications, at most, little did she know that she would write more than 40 installments. At first, Stowe only published about one worker year, but now she was publishing multiple pieces in a year. A Tale from the Swamp, Stowe began to produce more powerful anti-slavery novels. During this time she published 30 books and numerous short stories, articles, poems, and even hymns. In addition to public expression Stowe could also fianancially contribute to the household income. Education Persuasive arguments was a skill taught to Stowe at the table during meals. At the time it was unheard of that a girl would learn anything other than to sew, cook, clean, paint, and most importantly, take care of the household. First a student, in , Stowe became a teacher at Hartford Female Seminary, which was founded by her oldest sister Catharine. At Seminary, Stowe expanded her talents of composition, spending endless hours writing and re-writing essays, and papers. This is where she meets and, eventually marries Calvin Ellis Stowe. Rich in nothing else During the summer of , Stowe was enlightened, she had experienced the sorrow that most 19th century parents did when month old Samuel Charles Stowe died of cholera. There Harriet built the house of her dreams, Oakholm, in a neighborhood full of friends and family. The high maintenance cost of the house and invasion of factories, Harriet was forced to sell her mansion. Three years later in , she moved into a Victorian Gothic on Forest street and lived there for the next 23 years of her life. During her time in Hartford, Stowe took on two speaking engagements, the first on the east coast, and the second taking her out west. As a promotion for progressive ideals, she helped enliven the art museum at the Wadsworth Atheneum and participated in the establishment of Hartford Art School, eventually becoming part of the University of Hartford. I merely did his dictation.

**Chapter 3 : Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Biography by Noel B. Gerson**

*In Which the Reader Is Introduced to a Man of Humanity, Page 1: Read Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Author Harriet Beecher Stowe Page by Page, now. Free, Online.*

Visit Website In Cincinnati, Stowe taught at the Western Female Institute, another school founded by Catharine, where she wrote many short stories and articles and co-authored a textbook. With Ohio located just across the river from Kentucky – a slave state – Stowe often encountered fugitive slaves and heard their heart-wrenching stories. This, and a visit to a Kentucky plantation, fueled her abolitionist fervor. The club gave Stowe the chance to hone her writing skills and network with publishers and influential people in the literary world. Stowe and Calvin married in January. He encouraged her writing and she continued to churn out short stories and sketches. Along the way, she gave birth to six children. In 1832, she published *The Mayflower*: That same year, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, which allowed runaway slaves to be hunted, caught and returned to their owners, even in states where slavery was outlawed. The tragedy helped her understand the heartbreak slave mothers went through when their children were wrenched from their arms and sold. The Fugitive Slave Law and her own great loss led Stowe to write about the plight of slaves. On a slave transport ship, he saves the life of Eva, a white girl from a wealthy family. In the meantime, Eliza – another slave from the same plantation as Tom – learns of plans to sell her son George. Eva becomes ill and, on her deathbed, asks her father to free his slaves. He agrees but is killed before he can, and Tom is sold to a ruthless new owner who employs violence and coercion to keep his slaves in line. After helping two slaves escape, Tom is beaten to death for not revealing their whereabouts. Throughout his life, he clings to his steadfast Christian faith, even as he lay dying. The book was first published in serial form as a group of sketches in the *National Era* and then as a two-volume novel. The book sold 10,000 copies the first week. Over the next year, it sold 1,000,000 copies in America and over one million copies in Britain. So, despite her fame, she seldom spoke about the book in public, even at events held in her honor. Instead, Calvin or one of her brothers spoke for her. Its characters and their daily experiences made people uncomfortable as they realized slaves had families and hopes and dreams like everyone else, yet were considered chattel and exposed to terrible living conditions and violence. It also sparked outrage. In the North, the book stoked anti-slavery views. In some parts of the South, the book was illegal. As it gained popularity, divisions between the North and South became further entrenched. By the mid-1840s, the Republican Party had formed to help prevent slavery from spreading. In 1852, she published two books: *A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp*, which reflected her belief that slavery demeaned society. Stowe and her son Frederick established a plantation there and hired former slaves to work it. In 1853, she wrote *Palmetto Leaves*, a memoir promoting Florida life. Controversy and heartache found Stowe again in her later years. In 1854, her article in *The Atlantic* accused English nobleman Lord Byron of an incestuous relationship with his half-sister that produced a child. The scandal diminished her popularity with the British people. But no scandal ever reduced the massive impact her writings had on slavery and the literary world. Stowe died on July 2, 1851, at her Connecticut home, surrounded by her family.

**Chapter 4 : Who Was Harriet Beecher Stowe? by Dana Meachen Rau**

*The Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Cincinnati, Ohio, is the former home of her father Lyman Beecher on the former campus of the Lane Seminary. Her father was a preacher who was greatly affected by the pro-slavery Cincinnati Riots of*

Her race is run, And she lies here. At this time there was no such thing as American literature – the periodicals were filled with material pirated from Britain. International copyright had not yet been established, and most editors thought it foolish to pay for what they could take for free, an attitude that slowed the development of our national literature. It was women who saw the potential for making literature a career, who wrote the first best sellers, and who laid the groundwork for the creation of American literature. She soon became a regular writer, offering at age nine to write weekly compositions. When she graduated at age thirteen, her composition was read aloud at the school exhibition. It was entitled "Can the immortality of the Soul be proved by the light of nature? When he heard the essay, Lyman Beecher leaned over to the person next to him and asked who wrote it. When the answer came, "your daughter, sir," Harriet experienced the proudest moment of her life. The first tasks she set her sister were in Latin and Greek, thought to be among the most difficult subjects in the male curriculum. The curriculum of both schools included rhetoric, geography, the natural sciences, history, mathematics, and moral philosophy – thought to be the most important subject in the male college curriculum and typically taught by the president of the college. Thus Harriet Beecher enjoyed an education equivalent to that of a man. Schools and seminaries were part of his plan to "save the West" from the increasing numbers of Irish and German immigrants who were pouring into the Mississippi Valley. The twenty-one-year-old Harriet Beecher approached the West in a more open and tolerant spirit. She saw the vastness of the country and observed with pleasure the diversity of cultures and voices. A year later she published her first book, a Geography, where, with some local pride, she displayed a picture of the Cincinnati landing, where the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers created a great center for trade in what was called "the London of the West. She was at this time a member of the Semi Colon Club, a literary salon which met on Monday evenings throughout the academic year. Members would gather to socialize, drink Madeira, flirt, discuss the latest topics of the day, and listen to the reading of stories and poems that had been written by its members. An appointed reader apparently always male would read the submissions anonymously. One can imagine how useful such an apprenticeship would be to an aspiring writer. Perhaps even more important to Harriet Beecher was the intimate nature of this gathering in the parlor. She could see the faces of her audience and observe what moved them, what made them laugh, what reminded them of the New England many of them had left behind. She developed what would become the hallmark of her prose, an intimate narrative voice. Her first published story was written for the Semi Colon Club. Refracting these childhood stories through the lens of her western experience, she could now see Uncle Lot as more than just an eccentric; he was a social type, the New England farmer. Uncle Lot was the first of the regional types with which she would people her fiction. If moving to Cincinnati provided Harriet Beecher with a national experience, it also allowed her to see more clearly where she had come from. When she came to Cincinnati, she was a New Englander; when she left eighteen years later, she was an American. The West was the cradle of her career. Valedictorian of his class at Bowdoin College and master of five biblical languages, he was a good intellectual match for the highly educated, literary Beecher whom her brothers and sisters called a blue stocking and feared would never marry. For his part, Calvin Stowe was smitten with the Beechers and their grand schemes to redeem the West and everything else in their path. He supported Harriet in her literary career, famously telling her when she was on the verge of publishing her first collection of stories, "My dear, you must be a literary woman. A border city situated just across the river from the slave state of Kentucky, Cincinnati was in many ways a southern town. Birney set up his printing press and began publishing his antislavery paper, The Philanthropist, a mob broke into his office, seized his printing press and threw it into the river. The first antislavery battles were battles over free speech. Harriet, pregnant with twins, seized the opportunity to write an editorial for the Cincinnati Journal protesting mob rule and suppression of contrary

views. Her brother Edward was present when Elijah Lovejoy was murdered in Alton, Illinois for attempting to publish his antislavery paper, and many of her siblings were taking public roles in the slavery controversy. Harriet, for the most part, was content to observe the increasingly fractious national debate from the sidelines, only occasionally stirring the pot in order to see the steam rise. In her sixth child, Samuel Charles, died in a cholera epidemic in Cincinnati. Cholera was a relatively new disease in the Western hemisphere and inspired dread partly for that reason and partly because it was so deadly. Three thousand people died in Cincinnati in the epidemic of 1832. We know today that cholera is spread by dirty water, but the germ theory of disease was not at that time understood. To people in the nineteenth century it was an act of God, a biblical plague. When Charley fell ill, Harriet wrote to Calvin that she had little hope of his recovery. There was no medical intervention available at the time, and all Harriet could do was watch helplessly while her eighteen-month-old child was wracked by convulsions and lost all the fluids in his body. She also wrote that losing Charley made her understand what a slave woman felt when her child was taken away at the auction block. This law, like the Compromise of 1850 of which it was a part, was an attempt to hold the nation together around the contradiction of slavery in a democratic country. It required citizens to assist the sheriff in catching runaway slaves, stipulating fines and imprisonment for those who refused. The Fugitive Slave Law brought slavery home to the doorsteps of northerners, who had to decide what they would do if a fugitive slave came knocking at their door for assistance. Her letter reveals the urgency with which the slavery question now occupied her: Up to this year I have always felt that I had no particular call to meddle with this subject, and I dreaded to expose even my own mind to the full force of its exciting power. But I feel now that the time is come when even a woman or a child who can speak a word for freedom and humanity is bound to speak. The Carthaginian women in the last peril of their state cut off their hair for bow strings to give to the defenders of their country, and such peril and shame as now hangs over this country is worse than Roman slavery, and I hope every woman who can write will not be silent. In the first scene, a slave master in Kentucky, Mr. Shelby, is negotiating with a slave trader, Mr. Haley. Mr. Shelby is not an unkind master – he even lets his slaves read and practice religion – but Mr. Shelby is in debt and Haley holds the note he must make good. Shelby agrees to sell Tom, the slave who has raised him and who, because of his exceptional loyalty, trustworthiness, and Christian character, is very valuable. While Stowe engages in strategic satire of the scale of values being applied to Tom, Haley observes that he is not quite enough to cover the debt. At this point in the negotiation into the room comes Harry, the five-year-old child of slave woman Eliza. Taken with the boy and thinking to raise him for the "fancy trade," Haley agrees that if Shelby will include him, he will write off his note. Shelby plans to sell her child. She resolves to steal away with him in the night. At a memorable point in her flight, Eliza comes to the Ohio River, the boundary between the slave state of Kentucky and the free state of Ohio. She approaches the ferry man and asks him to take them across. He points to the cakes of ice careening on the river and says that if they put a boat in the water it will be broken to pieces. At this point Eliza hears the voices of the slave catchers in close pursuit, and in a desperate act, holds tight to her child and leaps onto an ice cake, somehow managing to get from that ice cake to the next and the next. Of course, Stowe knew that if she could evoke that depth of response from a white audience, she did not need to make arguments about slavery. She had already succeeded in making them see the subjectivity of a black person. When Eliza reached the other side of the river with Harry, it was as if Stowe was setting her own child down gently on the other side after his terrible death. When it was published in book form in March of 1852 it sold 50,000 copies in the U. Sales in the British Isles topped a million and a half. Some of these, such as the narratives of Josiah Henson, Henry Bibb, and Frederick Douglass, she had drawn on for her story. Many more sources she compiled after the fact, drawing in one section on legal cases that produced, in graphic detail, treatments of slaves more horrific than anything she had written. She concluded that if she had produced an inaccurate version of slavery, it was by undercoloring rather than overcoloring the evidence. A realistic depiction of slavery, she wrote, would be too awful to read. Like many Yankee women with years of tradition behind them and confidence in their domestic "faculties," she displayed condescension toward both her black and her immigrant help. But it is impossible to read the works of Harriet Beecher Stowe without being impressed by the power of sympathy that pours out in all directions, a power that, as an artist, she needed to imagine in realistic detail the wide variety of social types who inhabit her fictions. In order to

create Tom Loker and Simon Legree she had to feel what it was like to be them, to let them, as well as the horrors of slavery, enter into her consciousness. It takes a certain kind of temperament to do this, a temperament at once strong and optimistic so as not to "sink" under the horror and deeply sympathetic and almost medium-like. It draws on material from Joan D. Hedrick, *Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Life* New York: Oxford University Press,

*In Which the Reader Is Introduced to a Man of Humanity, Page 3: Read Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Author Harriet Beecher Stowe Page by Page, now. Free, Online.*

Her mother was his first wife, Roxana Foote , a deeply religious woman who died when Stowe was only five years old. Her notable siblings included a sister, Catharine Beecher , who became an educator and author, as well as brothers who became ministers: There she received a traditional academic education, usually only reserved for males at the time, with a focus in the classics, including studies of languages and mathematics. Among her classmates was Sarah P. Willis, who later wrote under the pseudonym Fanny Fern. Areas of the city had been wrecked in the Cincinnati riots of , when ethnic Irish attacked blacks, trying to push competitors out of the city. Beecher met a number of African Americans who had suffered in those attacks, and their experience contributed to her later writing about slavery. Riots took place again in and , driven also by native-born anti-abolitionists. It was in the literary club that she met Calvin Ellis Stowe , a widower who was a professor at the seminary. The two married on January 6, Most slaves continued north to secure freedom in Canada. The Stowes had seven children together, including twin daughters. At the time, Stowe had moved with her family to Brunswick, Maine , where her husband was now teaching at Bowdoin College. Their home near the campus is protected as a National Historic Landmark. She even stated the following, "Having experienced losing someone so close to me, I can sympathize with all the poor, powerless slaves at the unjust auctions. You will always be in my heart Samuel Charles Stowe. I hope every woman who can write will not be silent. Jewett with an initial print run of 5, copies. Lincoln, the goal of the book was to educate northerners on the realistic horrors of the things that were happening in the south. The other purpose was to try to make people in the south feel more empathetic towards the people they were forcing into slavery. Stowe showed that slavery touched all of society, beyond the people directly involved as masters, traders and slaves. Her novel added to the debate about abolition and slavery, and aroused opposition in the South. In the South, Stowe was depicted as out of touch, arrogant and guilty of slander. I will only say now that it was all very funnyâ€”and we were ready to explode with laughter all the while. Her son later reported that Lincoln greeted her by saying, "so you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war. In response to a newspaper article in she wrote, "I came to Florida the year after the war and held property in Duval County ever since. In all this time I have not received even an incivility from any native Floridian. The newly homeless moved to Canada, where very bitter accounts appeared. She can make no contract and hold no property; whatever she inherits or earns becomes at that moment the property of her husband Though he acquired a fortune through her, or though she earned a fortune through her talents, he is the sole master of it, and she cannot draw a penny She passes out of legal existence. Unable to bear the public attacks on her brother, Stowe again fled to Florida but asked family members to send her newspaper reports. Stowe was among the founders of the Hartford Art School, which later became part of the University of Hartford. Following the death of her husband, Calvin Stowe, in , Harriet started rapidly to decline in health. She imagined that she was engaged in the original composition, and for several hours every day she industriously used pen and paper, inscribing passages of the book almost exactly word for word. This was done unconsciously from memory, the authoress imagining that she composed the matter as she went along. To her diseased mind the story was brand new, and she frequently exhausted herself with labor which she regarded as freshly created. Her mind had decayed, and she was a pathetic figure. She wandered about all the day long in the care of a muscular Irish woman. Among the colonists of our neighborhood the doors always stood open in pleasant weather. Stowe entered them at her own free will, and as she was always softly slippered and generally full of animal spirits, she was able to deal in surprises, and she liked to do it. She would slip up behind a person who was deep in dreams and musings and fetch a war whoop that would jump that person out of his clothes. And she had other moods. Sometimes we would hear gentle music in the drawing-room and would find her there at the piano singing ancient and melancholy songs with infinitely touching effect. She is buried in the historic cemetery at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts.

Chapter 6 : Harriet Beecher Stowe - Wikipedia

*The Oxford Harriet Beecher Stowe Reader offers a focused collection of Stowe's writings from the 1820s through the 1850s. Illustrating her broad range, rhetorical strategies, and cultural designs on the world, it is ideal for courses in nineteenth-century American literature, women's literature, and American history.*

Early Essays and Sketches 1. Sketch from the Note-Book of an Old Gentleman" 4. To the Editor of the Cincinnati Journal and Luminary 2. A Sketch" 3. A Parable" 4. A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp Domestic Culture and Politics 1. To Sarah Buckingham Beecher 3. Selections from Little Foxes 6. And her book is so essential to understanding the evolution of middle-class women and nineteenth-century culture that it is hard to imagine how we have managed to get along without it A fluent narrator, Hedrick has condensed great quantities of material and gives us an economical, coherent and immensely readable story. However, she never fails to underline the larger significances and identify the historical contexts of her tale. This stimulating and clear-eyed book is of great importance to anyone interested in the politics and culture of the nineteenth century. Waller, University of Connecticut "Joan D. Hedrick, in an impressive act of scholarship, reexamines the life of Harriet Beecher Stowe, revealing a detailed portrait of one of the first female professional writers in America. Early Essays and Sketches 1. Sketch from the Note-book of an Old Gentleman" 4. A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp 9. Domestic Culture and Politics 1. Letter to Sarah Buckingham Beecher 3.

**Chapter 7 : Dear Reader Letter - Harriet Beecher Stowe**

*It draws on material from Joan D. Hedrick, Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Life (New York: Oxford University Press, ) and the introduction to The Harriet Beecher Stowe Reader, ed. Hedrick (New York: Oxford University Press, ).*

She wrote it to make a point about the innate evil of slavery as an institution, and she is very straightforward about her goals. Her ability to use various narrative tactics to appeal to a wide range of readers allowed her novel to reach its maximum readership. A sentimental novel usually presents "benevolently virtuous and intensely sensitive heroes and heroines of the middle class" involved in distresses of various sorts for the purpose of invoking pity and pleasurable tears from the reader. One of the joys of a sentimental novel AKA a "tearjerker" is the cathartic effect of suffering vicariously through a fictional character rather than experiencing pain and hardship personally. But her characters and their suffering enthralled readers of this period. It was a desperate leap "impossible to anything but madness and despair. With wild cries and desperate energy she leaped to another and still another cake; -- stumbling "leaping" slipping "springing upwards again! Her shoes are gone "her stockings cut from her feet "while blood marked every step; but she saw nothing, felt nothing. The encounter between Eliza and the Birds is another emotionally charged scene. Bird was hoping to make about her husband and his morality: In this scene, the reader is confronted with the similarity between Eliza and Mrs. As mothers, both women have suffered the loss of a child. As Eliza tells the story of her two dead children, the reader is led to a reaction similar to that of the Birds. Bird hides her face in her handkerchief, and even Mr. Bird seems suspiciously moved as he "turned his back on the company, and looked out of the window, and seemed particularly busy in clearing his throat and wiping his spectacle-glasses, occasionally blowing his nose" The emotional appeal continues as Mr. Bird tentatively suggests that Harry could use some of the clothing belonging to his own deceased son, and Mrs. Bird gathers the clothing together with tears and the assurance that "if our dear, loving little Henry looks down from heaven, he would be glad to have us do this" Other scenes noted for their emotional appeal include the death scenes of Little Eva and Tom. When we first see her, she is talking to her husband about their opposing views of slavery. My life is as bitter as wormwood; the very life is burning out of me. I wish I was dead! Although Eliza sounds as if she believes in slavery when the excerpt begins, we should note that all of her faith is really placed in the human representation of the institution: The Shelys were always kind and raised her as a pampered child, so it is difficult for Eliza to accept the reality that she is just property that can be disposed of at will. Separation of family Disregard for a human attachment to family was one of the many ways that slave owners justified breaking up family units for profit. One sees girls and mothers, crying at these sales, always! Even our heroine Eliza is not untouched by danger. Early on, we are told that she is "so white as not to be known as of colored lineage" , and John later mentions that "handsome uns has the greatest cause to run, sometimes, if they has any kind of feelin, such as decent women should" Cassy is also at least half white, and her beauty eventually lands her in the harsh hands of Simon Legree. Shelby, and George Junior -- The Shelby slaves love their master and mistress because they are treated humanely; however, when Mr. Shelby finds himself in financial trouble due to gambling debts a very real danger for the monied aristocracy , he agrees to sell little Harry and Tom to settle those debts and preserve his standard of living. Shelby is shocked and horrified, but as a woman, her voice holds limited power outside of the domestic realm. This bond is the impetus for George Junior becoming the type of slave owner that Stowe hoped to see all across the South: A kind woman shares her lunch and some gossip in a country farmhouse Symmes rescues Eliza from the river bank once she reaches Ohio. Bird asserts that "Obeying God never brings on public evils. Clare "[o]ften and often. She would glide in among them, and look at them with an air of perplexed and sorrowful earnestness; and sometimes she would lift their chains with her slender hands, and then sigh wofully as she glided away" Claire represents what Stowe saw as the biggest problem in slavery: Unfortunately, he dies before he can take action on his newfound resolve to free his slaves and take action against the institution. Throughout other parts of the novel, Uncle Tom and the runaways meet numerous kind, helpful whites with varying degrees of abolitionist sentiment. The Quakers are particularly important, as they were historically. The list of cruel

whites is shorter, largely because their cruelty allows them to stand as evil representatives of an entire class of slave owner: He beats George and threatens to sell him "down the river" -- a fate leading inevitable to death due to the harsher climate and work conditions further south. This is also the man who ordered George to drown his own puppy and then threw rocks at the drowning dog when George refused. Simon Legree stands as the epitome of evil because he is the slave owner "down the river" that all slaves fear. His theory about slave labor illustrates the accepted view that slaves were less than human: In Marie case, she has become as cruel as any male slave holder as she is debased by years of owning other humans. They are so bad they ought not to live. How many miles could you make in those few brief hours, with the darling at your bosom, -- the little sleepy head on your shoulder, -- the small, soft arms trustingly holding onto your neck? Another overt example of the appeal to motherhood is the meeting between Eliza and Mrs. Bird and their conversation about lost children. Remember that infant and childhood mortality rates were much higher during this period than today, and Stowe correctly assumed that a large number of the mothers in her audience could relate the bond of loss shared between Eliza and Mrs. First, she speaks to the "generous, noble-minded men and women of the South. She asks, "Cannot the ruffian, the brutal, the debased, by slave law, own just as many slaves as the best and the purest? Are the honorable, the just, the high-minded and compassionate, the majority anywhere in this world? By the sick hour of your child; by whose dying eyes, which you can never forget; by those last cries, that wrung your heart when you could neither help nor save; by the desolation of that empty cradle, that silent nursery, -- I beseech you, pity those mothers that are constantly made childless by the American slave-trade! And say, mothers of America, is this a thing to be defended, sympathized with, passed over in silence? Shall the doors of churches and school-houses be shut upon them? Shall states arise and shake them out? Shall the church of Christ hear in silence the taunt that is thrown at them, and shrink away from the helpless hand that they stretch out; and, by her silence, encourage the cruelty that would chase them from our borders? Stowe calls them "more guilty for it, before God, than the South, in that they have not the apology of education or custom. Stowe ends with an appeal to all American Christians, reminding them of the day of reckoning: Not by combining together, to protect injustice and cruelty, and making a common capital of sin, is this Union to be saved, -- but by repentance, justice, and mercy; for, not surer is the eternal law by which the millstone sinks in the ocean, than that stronger law, by which injustice and cruelty shall bring on nations the wrath of Almighty God! An angelic figure who dresses in white and gazes on everyone and everything with loving, spiritual eyes, Eva is too good for this world. She touches the hearts of everyone around her, and she is often viewed critically as the white, female counterpart of Tom. The similarities in their world views and attitudes toward the importance of religion clearly makes them the strongest characters, both morally and spiritually. Stowe, however, could not give the people what they wanted, and little Eva succumbed to tuberculosis, and "the country wept. As he struggles to keep his Bible, he finds a strength in the words of God that create a protective shell around him. He preaches to his fellow slaves and manages to convert virtually everyone he speaks to notable exceptions are Marie and Legree. Tom is also viewed critically as a Christ figure, and his sacrifice in the end is obvious. Tom dies much as Eva did, looking into Heaven: Glory be to His name! She also serves as a foil for Eva: The fair, high-bred child, with her golden head, her deep eyes, her spiritual, noble brow, and prince-like movements; and her black, keen, subtle, cringing, yet acute neighbor. They stood the representatives of their races. The Saxon, born of ages of cultivation, command, education, physical and moral eminence; the Afric, born of ages of oppression, submission, ignorance, toil, and vice! He is just as willing to love you, as me. He loves you just as I do, -- only more, because he is better. He will help you to be good; and you can go to Heaven at last, and be an angel forever, just as much as if you were white".

## Chapter 8 : Uncle Tom's Cabin - Wikipedia

*In Which the Reader Is Introduced to a Man of Humanity Late in the afternoon of a chilly day in February, two gentlemen were sitting alone over their wine, in a well-furnished dining parlor, in the town of Pá€"â€", in Kentucky.*

Jan 28, Carol rated it really liked it Wow. One of The First Feminists! I admit, I did find some of the quoted correspondences, which much of the book centered around full and repetitive and I did skim through a few in the center Wow. I admit, I did find some of the quoted correspondences, which much of the book centered around full and repetitive and I did skim through a few in the center of the story. They did make slogging through the beginning quite slow as well The work did bring pre-war, Civil war, and post-war into a new perspective for me. She was there raising her children while waiting for her husband to take his accepted position teaching Religion at the college, but with no replacement available for two years at the Seminary he taught at, by the time he was available for the position, another offer came and the family moved from Brunswick. Stowe was in the early stages of great fame for her famous novel. I picked this up out of curiosity and found myself engrossed. Harriet Beecher Stowe was truly a remarkable woman. Gerson is not fawning by any means, yet he conveys a vivid, three-dimensional portrait of a woman who tried her very best to be what she felt God wanted her to be. In many ways, she was an important catalyst in changing the world. We each knew little to nothing about Mrs. Stowe, so it was really interesting to learn all about her, her life, and her popularity. As one of my kids put it, she was probably more famous than J. Highly recommended to any fellow history buffs. Aug 24, Jane Thompson rated it liked it Biography A very unsatisfying biography, the author. Tells the story of Harriet Beecher Stowe. It leaves out many details and does not adequately explain. Feb 12, Lyn rated it liked it Part of history Interesting read of the life of a woman who was completely involved with the times of her life. Never realized what a prolific writer she was. Also did not know that her brothers were pastors in Batavia NY where I am from. May 11, Colleen Lim rated it it was amazing Excellent I learned more about Harriett Beecher Stowe and the role she played in history from this book than any history book I have ever read. The entire Beecher family members were incredible. I plan to reread this book to absorb more history. Dec 18, C. It did provide incite into her upbringing and personality which I found interesting. Just way too many quotes from her books and letters.

## Chapter 9 : Stowe's Life and Uncle Tom's Cabin

*Stowe's vivid characters and portrayal of their struggles opened reader's eyes to the realities of slavery and the humanity of enslaved people. Stowe hoped the novel would build empathy for the characters and, in turn, for enslaved individuals.*