



HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

Harriett Beecher was born in Litchfield, Connecticut in 1811 into a moderately famous family.

- Her father - Lyman Beecher - was a prominent Calvinist minister.
- Her brother Henry Ward Beecher was also a famous minister & abolitionist.

Harriet attended a school that her sister Catherine established in Hartford - the Hartford Female Academy.

CINCINNATI YEARS

She moved with her family to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1832 when her father, a distinguished Congregationalist minister, accepted an appointment as president of the Lane Theological Seminary.

Cincinnati was the largest and most prosperous Midwestern city at that time.

- It was also an important point on the Underground Railroad.

Although her father was an abolitionist, Harriet Beecher Stowe apparently had not thought much about slavery before she moved to Cincinnati.

- Quickly, she learned about the extremely harsh treatment of many slaves just across the river in Kentucky.
- She found out that her own domestic servant, Zillah, was a fugitive slave.
- Then she became active in the Underground Railroad.

In Cincinnati, Harriet Beecher married Calvin Stowe, a professor at Lane Theological.

- In 1850, he accepted a job to teach theology at the college he attended, Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow & Nathaniel Hawthorne attended this college.)

UNCLE TOM

Right after they moved, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850

- The new law made it easier for slave catchers to recapture slaves from northern cities.
- It motivated many activists to work more diligently in the Underground Railroad.
- It motivated Harriet to write her book!
- Just after the Stowes moved to Maine with their six children, Mrs. Stowe began writing Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Uncle Tom's Cabin was published in 1852.

The book vividly portrayed:

- the cruelty of slavery
- slaves as having the same values as the rest of us - a very strong interest in preserving their families and in freedom
- a variety of slaveowners with very different styles of ownership
- how the system of slavery negatively influences the owners and worsens them
- how even good slaveowners can get trapped by the system into doing things against their conscience

Southern defenders of slavery contended that Stowe had painted an unfair picture of slavery.

- Her book was banned in many Southern areas.
- To refute their arguments, she published *The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1854 describing the real events behind the story

Stowe's book was extremely popular in the United States and England and helped build a consensus in the North that slavery should be terminated rather than contained.

- Her book hastened the Civil War.

In 1862, President Lincoln met Harriett Beecher Stowe for the first time.

- He said to her: "So you're the little woman that wrote the book that started this Great War."

Harriet Beecher Stowe continued to write extensively and lectured. Achieved tremendous international fame.

In 1864, the Stowes moved to Hartford, CT - they moved into a Victorian Gothic cottage that now serves as a museum

Her next door neighbor in Hartford was Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain)!

- Neighbors for the last 23 years of her life in Nook Farm Neighborhood.

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

To read the chapters at home, you may use this website where free chapters are located:

<http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/StoCabi.html>

- I will send you a link to this site by email so you can click on it to make it easier for you.
- I will also email you **handouts of the chapters** in case you would like to print them out. (For your convenience, I formatted the chapters in ways that would use less paper than printing directly from the website.)

Week One Covered In Class:

- Chapter 1 - 3 - A sale is arranged & characters introduced
- Chapter 4 - portions - An evening in Uncle Tom's Cabin
- Chapter 5 - portions - Eliza and Tom find out about the sale.
- Chapter 7 - portions - Eliza's Escape
- Chapter 9 - briefly Senator & Mrs. Bird
- Chapter 10 - Mas'r George & Tom's goodbye
- Chapter 11 - portions - George's Escape



Week One Read at Home:

- **Chapter 12** - Tom sails south with Haley
- **Chapter 14** - Tom meets the St. Clare's
- Chapter 20 - *Optional* - St. Clare purchases Topsy for Miss Ophelia
- **Chapter 22** - Tom & Eva after two years
- Chapter 25 - *Optional* - Miss Ophelia comes to a realization



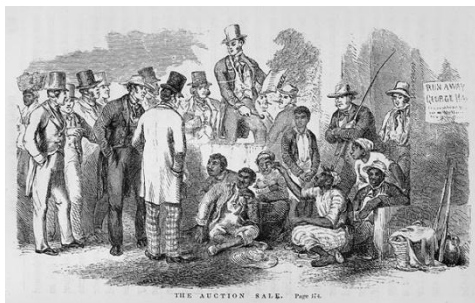
Week Two Covered In Class:

- Chapter 28 - portions - St. Clare is a smidgeon too late
- Chapter 30 - The sale at the slave warehouse
- Chapter 33 - Tom arrives at Simon Legree's
- Chapter 38 - portions - Tom on the farm
- Chapter 39 - portions maybe - Cassie goes into hiding



Week Two Read at Home:

- **Chapter 40**
- **Chapter 41**
- **Chapter 44**



A KEY TO THE CHARACTERS IN THE CHAPTERS WE WILL READ! :~D

The Shelby Family of Kentucky

- **Mr. Arthur Shelby:** Tom's master in Kentucky.
- **Emily Shelby:** Arthur Shelby's wife. A deeply religious woman who strives to be a kind and moral influence upon her slaves.
- **George Shelby:** Arthur and Emily's son, who sees Tom as a "friend" and as the perfect Christian. In the book, he is often referred to as "Mas'r George". He is age 13 when the story begins.
- **Uncle Tom:** Uncle Tom, the title character, a noble, long-suffering Christian slave. Tom stands up for his beliefs and is grudgingly admired even by his enemies.
- **Aunt Chloe:** Tom's wife. They have 2 sons (Mose & Pete) and a baby girl (Polly).
- **Eliza Harris:** A slave who serves as personal maid to Mrs. Shelby.
- **Harry:** son of Eliza and George Harris.
- **Sam & Andy:** Slaves who "help" Haley look for Eliza & Harry and manufacture all sorts of delays with Mrs. Shelby's blessing.

George Harris: husband of Eliza. He is a mulatto man owned by the Harris family who are neighbors of the Shelby's. He distinguished himself by inventing a machine for the factory he was leased to. He is owned by Mr. Harris. Mr. Harris's son is named Mas'r Tom.

Mr. Wilson: George Harris's kind boss at the factory

Dan Haley: Slave Trader to whom Mr. Shelby owes money

Tom Lokar: Slave Catcher hired to find Eliza & Harry

The St. Clare Family of Louisiana

- **Augustine St. Clare:** Tom's second owner and father of Eva. He is complex, often sarcastic, with a ready wit. He recognizes the evil in slavery, but is not willing to relinquish the wealth it brings him. After losing the love of his life, he was full of grief and ended up married to an excessively selfish woman to whom he can feel no affection.
- **Marie St. Clare:** Augustine's wife and Eva's mother. She has no concept of slaves as being human like herself.
- **Eva St. Clare:** (Evangeline St. Clare) the daughter of Augustine St. Clare.
- **Miss Ophelia St. Clare:** Augustine St. Clare's pious, hard-working, abolitionist cousin from Vermont. She argues against the institution of slavery yet, at least initially, feels repulsed by the slaves as individuals.
- **Topsy:** A "ragamuffin" young slave girl purchased by St. Clare for his sister Miss Ophelia to reform. She is transformed by Little Eva's love.
- **Mr. Adolph, Mammy, Old Dinah, Jane, & Rachel:** Slaves of the St. Clare's

At the Farm of Simon Legree

- **Simon Legree:** A cruel slave owner—a Northerner by birth—whose name has become synonymous with greed. He is arguably the novel's main antagonist. His goal is to demoralize Tom and break him of his religious faith.
- **Cassie:** After working for Legree for many years, she is completely demoralized until Uncle Tom shows up.
- **Emmeline:** young slave purchased by Legree & befriended like a daughter by Cassie
- **Quimbo and Sambo:** slaves of Simon Legree who act as de facto overseers of the plantation.

Note: Several characters have the same names which can be confusing. It is thought Stowe did this to emphasize the common humanity of all people no matter what their lot in life. For example:

- **Uncle Tom** - the slave / **Mas'r Tom** Harris - the son of George Harris's owner / **Tom Lokar** - a slave catcher
- **Harry** - Eliza & George Harris's son / **Harry** - son of Cassie taken from her yrs ago / **Harry** - the recently deceased son of Senator & Mrs. Bird (from Chapter 9) who was lost to fever a month before Eliza & her Harry show up at their doorstep
- **George** Harris - the slave / **Mas'r George** Shelby - the son of Eliza & Uncle Tom's owner / both Georges in the book are champions of freedom like **George** Washington, another George :-D