

EDCON PUBLISHING

Level 1

Harriet Beecher Stowe's

Uncle Tom's Cabin



About the Author

Harriet was a white American born in the year 1811. While living in Cincinnati during her young adulthood, she did all she could to put an end to slavery. Her stories of Uncle Tom were first published in an anti-slavery paper, *The National Era*. Later, these stories were published in book form. This book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, was well received in the North. It was this story that had much to do with events leading up to the Civil War. It is also believed that this book was one of the reasons Abraham Lincoln abolished slavery.

Prologue

This story takes place during a very sad time in America. Black people were treated very badly. The white man looked upon them as animals. They were bought, sold, and traded, as though they were *things* and not *people*. Daddies were sold; mothers were sold; even their children were sold, if they had strong bodies. They were forced to live on their masters' farms and they had to work long and hard. If they didn't please their masters, they would be beaten, killed or resold. Uncle Tom was one such slave. He was a very kind man. He was as good as God would have him be. And he was loyal to his master. But being good and working hard did little for Tom. This is Tom's story...

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Uncle Tom's Cabin

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The Slave Trader



Mr. Haley traded slaves to make his living. He has come to buy Tom and Harry.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentences under the picture.
 4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Mr. Haley

- a. lived in New Orleans.
- b. bought and sold people for money.
- c. did not like Mr. Shelby.
- d. laughed too much.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out why Eliza runs away.

The Slave Trader

"You can say what you will about slavery, Mr. Shelby," Haley said. "But, you know, black people are not like white people. You see, Eliza, that black mother, will soon not care that her boy is gone." The slave trader laughed. The slave trader would make money selling Shelby's slaves "down river." Down river was New Orleans.

"I don't want to take Harry from his mother," said Shelby.

"Oh, I could sell the mother too!" said Haley.

"You may not buy her!" Shelby shouted. "My wife would never hear of it. It is hard for me just giving up Tom. He is my best slave. He reads the Bible, you know. I need people like Tom. I trust him."

Eliza was the mother of the boy the two men had talked about. And she had heard them talking. *The trader wants my little Harry, she thought. He will never get his hands on him!* she said to herself.

Eliza was married to George Harris. He was a good man. He was also a slave. He lived and worked on a place near the Shelby home. Sometimes married slaves could not live together. And so it was with Eliza and George.

This day, George had found time to come see Eliza. "Eliza, I have come to say good-bye..."

"Good-bye?" cried Eliza.

"Yes, my dear. I am going to Canada. My master is talking about selling me...in New Orleans! In Canada, I will be a free man. And when I can, I will buy you and Harry."

That night, Eliza heard the Shelbys talking. "Eliza thought she heard you say that you were going to sell her son, Harry," said Mrs. Shelby to her husband. "Please tell me that she didn't hear you say that."

"My dear, wife, I owe Haley some money. And right now, I don't have it. Haley said if I didn't have the money, he would be happy to take Tom and Harry. He would sell them in New Orleans, and keep the money."

Mrs. Shelby's face was red. "Tom? The one you trust the *most*? The one who does as the Bible tells him? Slavery is not right!" she shouted. "It is not right to hold slaves! And to buy and sell them like animals is not God's way! Oh, my husband, do we need the money that much?"

"My Dear, there is nothing more I can do. Mr. Haley will come in the morning for Tom and Eliza's boy."

Eliza had heard every word they said. She ran to the small room where Harry was sleeping. She thought about George and Canada. She thought how her master and Mrs. Shelby had once been so kind. But there was no time to cry. It was time to run! She had to get away before morning!

Crossing The River



Eliza tells Uncle Tom that he is being sold.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentence under the picture.
 4. Read the first four paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Eliza

- a. was going home to see her mother.
- b. was taking little Harry to school.
- c. was going to run away with Harry.
- d. was going to stay with Tom for a while.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 16 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out who Eliza meets in Ohio.

Crossing The River

Eliza left the house. She took little Harry in her arms to Tom's cabin.

"Uncle Tom! Uncle Tom!" said Eliza.

Tom looked up from his Bible.

Eliza said, "Master does not have enough money. He must sell you and Harry. I am running to a safe place!"

Chloe, Tom's wife, tried to talk Tom into leaving, too.

"No," said Tom. "I can't go. If I go, the trader will just take someone else. I will stay here and look out for everyone."

Eliza could see that Tom would not leave the cabin. He began to pray to God. His wife, Chloe, began to cry. Eliza left with her child.

All night, Eliza hurried. Thoughts of her child made her keep going. Day came, and she stopped running. If people saw her running, they would talk. And the trader might hear of it. She wanted to escape. She did not want to be caught. Safe land was just across the Ohio River. It was not far from her home in Kentucky.

Soon, she came to the river. In the river she saw one cake of ice after another. *How will I ever get across?* she thought. Then she saw a store. Eliza went into the store.

"No boats are running," a man told her. "There is too much ice. The water is running fast, too."

Just then, Eliza saw the trader coming. She ran from the store with Harry. She ran back to the river. The trader was just behind!

She was so afraid! She didn't wait. She prayed to God for help. She jumped over the fast-running water onto the first cake of ice. She fell, but she jumped to the next piece...then the next. Again she fell, but she jumped up again onto another piece. Her shoes were now gone. But Harry was still in her arms. At last, she was on the Ohio side of the river.

A man helped her up. "Go to that farm," he said. "Those kind people will make you safe."

Eliza ran quickly. She wished she had her shoes. Her feet hurt, but Eliza still ran. The man and woman of the house gave help to Eliza. She was safe for now.

Eliza's husband, George, had escaped too. And he had gone to Ohio. When he got there, he was taken to a safe home. This was the same home where Eliza and Harry were! How surprised they were to be together again!

A New Life For Tom



Mrs. Shelby and her son, George, have come to say good-by to Tom.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentence under the picture.
 4. Read the first two paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Tom

- a. did not like young George.
- b. liked young George very much.
- c. was sad to see Mrs. Shelby crying.
- d. did not like to seeing his wife cry.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 22 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out about Tom's new master.

A New Life For Tom

Tom sat with his wife, Chloe. They waited for Haley to come for Tom. Chloe was angry, but Tom was not. He wanted to please Mr. Shelby. He knew that Mr. Shelby would take good care of Chloe.

Mrs. Shelby came to say good-bye to Tom. She had been crying. Later, the Shelby's young son, George, came to say good-bye to Tom. Young George had helped Tom to read his Bible. They liked each other very much.

Young George told Haley that it was not right to buy slaves.

"Then it is not right for your father to *sell* slaves," said Haley.

"I will never *buy* or *sell* anyone!" said George.

Haley took Tom away in his wagon. The wagon took them to the river. Then Haley took Tom on the Ohio River boat. High on the boat, white men and women were walking and talking. They talked about slavery. Some thought it was a good thing to have slaves. Others thought it was not right at all.

Tom felt sorry for one black woman on the boat. He had seen the trader take her little girl. Haley sold the little girl

right before her mother's eyes. The woman could not bear it. Tom did everything to make her feel better. But the woman could not stop crying.

After a while, Haley began to see that Tom was a good man. He knew that Tom would never try to run away. And so he let Tom walk around on the boat. Tom helped some of the men with their work. Tom was very strong. And Tom worked very fast. Tom helped save the men a lot of work.

The boat sat high on the river. From the boat, Tom saw some slaves working in a field. They were working very, very hard. The field was very big. Tom thought about his new life. *Will I have a kind master? he thought. Or will I be working hard like those slaves in the field?* Tom did not know what his new life would be like. But he knew he could bear anything.

One of the people on the boat was Mr. St. Clare. His little girl, Eva, was on the boat with him. Eva was five years old. Mr. St. Clare's cousin, Ophelia, was also on the boat. She was going to live with the St. Clares.

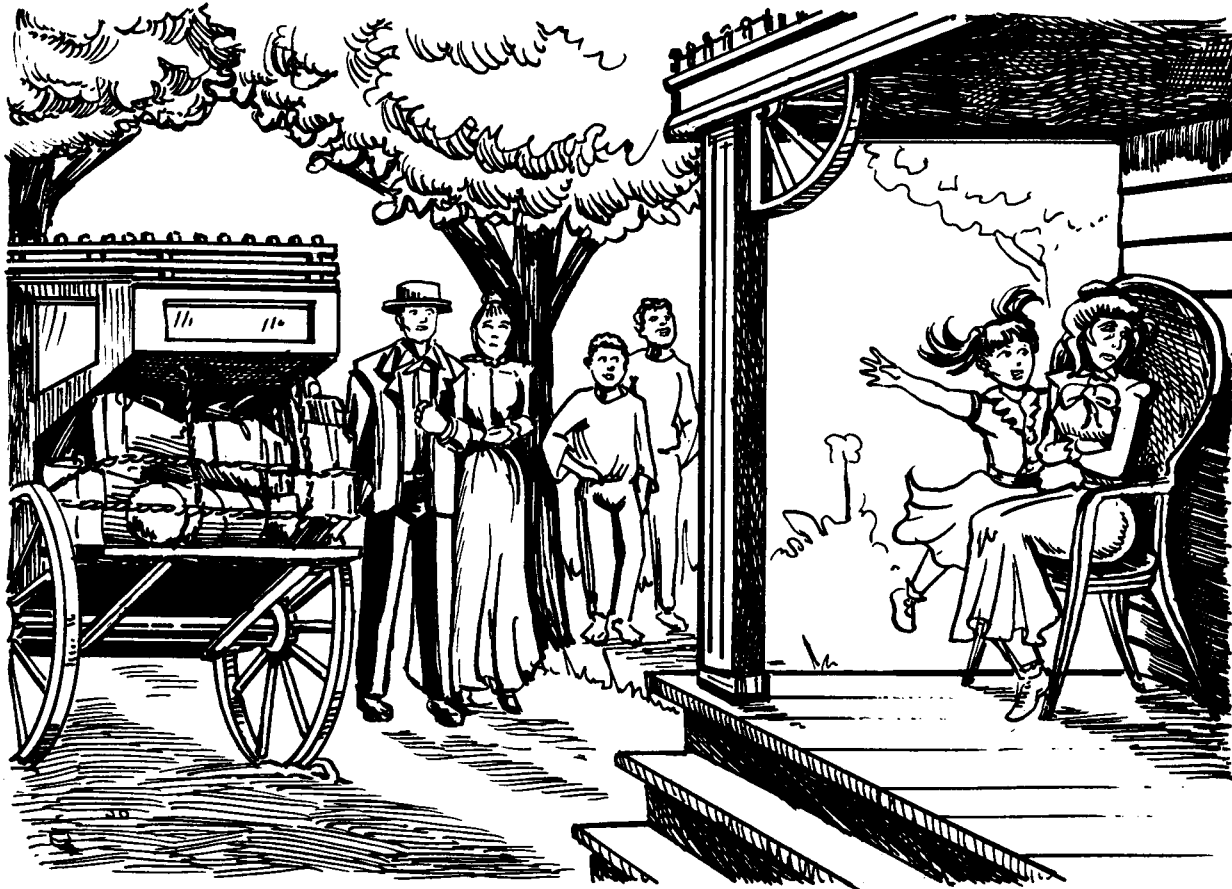
Tom made friends with lit-

tle Eva. One day, Eva fell off the boat and into the river. Tom had seen her fall. He was faster than St. Clare. Quickly, Tom jumped into the river and saved the little girl.

Mr. St. Clare could not thank Tom enough. And Eva liked Tom right away! Eva asked her father if he would buy Tom. Mr. St. Clare said he would be happy to buy Tom.

This was the start of Tom's new life. He would live with Mr. St. Clare and his family.

Life In New Orleans



Eva was happy to be back home. She ran to her mother and kissed her.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentences under the picture.
 4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Eva

- a. did not like her mother.
- b. did not like Mammy.
- c. did not like Ophelia.
- d. liked everyone.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 28 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to learn more about the St. Clare family.

Life In New Orleans

St. Clare came home with Eva, Tom, and Miss Ophelia. Every slave was happy to have the master home. He was good to all the slaves.

Eva ran to her mother, Marie St. Clare. "Hello, Mother," said Eva. Eva gave her mother a kiss on the head. All her mother did was complain about being sick.

Then Eva gave a hug and a kiss to Mammy. Mammy was a black slave. She took care of Eva's mother. Eva said hello to all the slaves. She gave them all hugs and kisses. Eva's warm feelings for the slaves surprised Miss Ophelia. She did not have these feelings for the slaves.

Marie complained a lot to Miss Ophelia. She said St. Clare was too easy on the slaves. She complained about being sick all the time. Marie wanted people to believe she was sick. But she was not. She just wanted people to feel sorry for her.

St. Clare and Ophelia talked about slavery. St. Clare said, "You are from New England, Ophelia. Most New Englanders say they don't believe in slavery. But they also don't have warm feelings for the slaves like Eva does."

Eva was happy to have Tom around. Tom played games with Eva. He liked New Orleans. In the garden, one day, Eva put flowers on Tom's head. Oh, what fun they had! Tom would help Eva with the horses. And sometimes Tom sang to Eva. Eva and Tom would read the Bible together.

Ophelia, on the other hand, did not have much fun. She was too busy keeping everything "just so". "Let's put things in order," she would say. The cook did not keep things in order. The slaves did not like Miss Ophelia telling them what to do.

St. Clare told Ophelia, "Let's not complain about the cook in the kitchen. Let's be thankful for the food she makes."

"It seems to me you should *teach* the slaves," said Ophelia. "You should teach them how to keep things in order."

"I do not believe in telling my slaves how to work, Ophelia," said St. Clare. "As long as they *do* their work."

St. Clare thought it was time to teach Ophelia a thing or two. He brought Topsy to Ophelia. Topsy was a black

child that St. Clare bought for Ophelia. She was always getting into things. She never did what she was told. She was always getting into trouble. "Here you go, Ophelia," said St. Clare. "You are always talking about teaching black people 'the right things'. Let's see what you can do with Topsy, here. See what you can teach *this* little girl." And with a laugh, he walked out of the room.

Topsy liked to laugh. She liked to sing. She sang a lot - even when she was told to stop singing. Ophelia did not find it easy to teach Topsy.

Eva and Topsy got along well. Eva was kind to Topsy. But Topsy had lived a hard life for such a young girl. She found it hard to believe Eva's kind words. Topsy always thought that Eva was up to something.

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