

B.A. English (Hons.) Sem VI
DSE IV- American Literature II

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Short questions

1. Why does George's master take him away from the factory?

Ans--After seeing George display his talent and good manners, Mr. Harris felt inferior and became determined to put George back in his place.

2. What earlier tragedy did Eliza go through in her marriage?

Ans--Two of Eliza's children died before she gave birth to Harry.

3. What does Mr. Harris think about George's hemp-cleaning machine?

Ans--Mr. Harris believes that George invented the hemp-cleaning machine to save time and labor for only himself.

4. How does George explain to Eliza the reality of their marriage?

Ans--George explains to his wife that their marriage is really nonexistent in the eyes of the law. As slaves, they cannot be married, which is why George wishes that he had never been born. To have known happiness and then have it taken away is a worse feeling.

5. From which part of the *Bible* does Master George read?

Ans--George reads the last chapters from *Revelations*.

6. Why does Mrs. Shelby call the deal to sell Harry and Tom "God's curse on slavery"?

Ans- Mrs. Shelby thinks that both masters and slaves are cursed by slavery. Masters sin for dealing in humans as property. Slaves suffer because they cannot live as human beings.

7. What does Haley think is the hardest part of slave trading?

Ans--Haley believes that dealing with children is the most difficult part of his profession, mainly because their mothers put up a fight or flee.

8. Where do Haley and Uncle Tom stay while in Washington, D.C.?

Ans--Haley stays at a tavern; Tom is locked in a jail.

9. What makes some passengers think more about the horrors of slavery?

Ans--Thinking about their own families, some passengers realize how terrible it is for slaves to be separated from their kin.

10. How does Tom first attract Eva's attention?

Ans--He makes her toys out of cherry stones and hickory nuts.

11. What does Miss Ophelia consider the "great sin of sins"?

Ans-- She considers "shiftlessness," or laziness, as the greatest sin.

12. What has St. Clare been tempted to do when he seriously thinks about the effects of slavery, especially on children?

Ans--He is tempted to curse his country and the whole human race.

13. What does St. Clare point to in New England that makes that region less righteous in its stance against slavery?

Ans-- St. Clare's father and an overseer on the father's plantation were from Vermont. These people were thus involved directly in the business of slavery.

14. Why does Legree want to break Tom's gentle character?

Ans--Legree wants to break Tom and make him into an overseer. But to be effective to Legree, Tom must be brutal to get the most work out of the other slaves.

15. How does Legree try to argue his case on religious grounds for Tom to obey him?

Ans--He argues that the Bible says for servants to obey their masters.

16. When Legree says that he has purchased Tom body and soul, what is Tom's reply?

Ans--Tom replies that Legree does not own the servant's soul, but God does.

17. What is Tom too exhausted to do in his leisure time?

Ans--He is too exhausted to read his *Bible*.

18. What does Legree suggest that Tom do with his *Bible*?

Ans--Legree suggests that Tom should throw it into the fire.

19. What legend haunts the garret in Legree's house?

Ans--The legend concerns a slave woman who had incurred Legree's wrath several years ago. He locked her in the garret for weeks, and then the dead woman's body was brought down for burial. Later sounds of violence and despairing groans echoed up in the garret.

20. What occupation does George have in Canada?

Ans--He is a machinist.

21. How does Cassy react when she sees her granddaughter Little Eliza?

Ans--Cassy takes Little Eliza in her arms, saying “Darling, I’m your mother!” She blurts this out because to Cassy, Little Eliza looks like Eliza did when Cassy had last seen her daughter.

22. What does Master George eventually do for his servants?

Ans--He eventually frees them all so that they will not have to face the uncertainties and horrors of slavery.

23. Why does Master George attribute the servants’ freedom to Tom?

Ans--He attributes the servants’ freedom to Tom because of the self-sacrificing example of his death.

24. Why does the author include real life incidents in the final chapter?

Ans--She includes these incidents because some of her readers have inquired whether her story had been based on facts.

25. What does Stowe say is the only thing that would protect a slave from abuse?

Ans-- She states that only a master’s character can protect a slave from abuse.

26. What law prompted Stowe to write *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*?

Ans--The Fugitive Slave Law prompts Stowe to write her book.

27. How does the author view the role of the church?

Ans--She viewed the church as the provider of intellectual and moral education.

28. What is the author’s intent by listing several free blacks’ occupations?

Ans--Her intent was to show that freed slaves were capable of working on their own and earning a living.