Summer Reading
AP Literature and Composition
Honors English IV
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Uncle Tom’s Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

AP Literature and Composition students must read the following novel:
Uncle Tom’s Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Summary: Rich in historical and religious references, Uncle Tom’s Cabin chronicles the lives of American slaves. The parallel plots trace Eliza and Tom and their experiences of slavery in the South. Eliza, her son Harry, and husband George escape to freedom in Canada when they discover that Eliza will be sold and separated from Harry and George. Tom is also to be sold, but he chooses to sacrifice himself for the betterment of his slave owner and the slaves that will remain on the Shelby’s farm. Tom is sold several times and ends up with Simon Legree, a brutal cotton plantation owner.

Uncle Tom’s Cabin is rich in Christian values and strong female characters. Stowe addresses the inhumanity of slavery and man’s moral obligation to put an end to slavery. Her strong female characters have caught the attention of modern day feminist.

Students need to read and annotate for the following:

Theme connections:
- Evil of slavery
- Slavery vs. Christian values
- Moral Power of Women
- Moral Law vs. Civil Law
- Universal Rights to Freedom

Faith Connections:
- Christ-like and Biblical figures
- Divine intervention
- Redemptive Suffering and Love
- Moral Law vs. Civil Law
- Faith

Characters:
- Uncle Tom
- Aunt Chloe
- Arthur Shelby
- Emily Shelby
- George Shelby
- George Harris
- Eliza Harris
- Augustine St. Clare
- Eva
- Miss Ophelia
- Marie St. Clare
- Senator and Mrs. Bird
- Topsy
- Simon Legree
- Cassy
- Emmeline

Assessments:
Class activities and discussions
Test
Essays
Annotations