

LESSON 52

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Introducing the Selection

The first black slaves were brought to Virginia in 1619; and with time, slavery became an established part of the plantation economy in the South. By the mid-1800s, the slavery issue was causing greater and greater tensions between the North and the South. Hundreds of slaves were fleeing north to freedom by the Underground Railroad, a loosely organized system developed by Quakers and other abolitionists who helped fugitive slaves on their way.

Uncle Tom's Cabin, written by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896), focused national attention on the evils of slavery and stirred up abolitionist sentiment. During the Civil War, President Lincoln met Harriet Beecher Stowe and reportedly said, “So this is the little lady who caused this big war.”

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 granted freedom to all slaves in those states still in rebellion. In 1865 the Thirteenth Amendment was adopted, which prohibits slavery throughout the nation.

Answer Key

Building Vocabulary

- lugged (paragraph 1)
 - dragged
 - carried
 - brought reluctantly
 - persuaded to come
- pecuniary (paragraph 9)
 - large
 - small
 - compromising
 - financial
- paltry (paragraph 9)
 - trivial
 - financial
 - selfish
 - weak
- fancied (paragraph 11)
 - needed
 - liked
 - imagined
 - dressed up
- gild it over (paragraph 13)
 - make it shiny
 - make it unnoticeable
 - make it come out right
 - make it beautiful
- accomplice (paragraph 18)
 - deceiver
 - hindrance
 - partner in crime
 - skilled performer
- rack (paragraph 39)
 - torture
 - ruin
 - auction block
 - separation