Vocabulary:
From the column on the right, choose the best definition for each of the vocabulary words below.

____ 1. expositions a. something one does particularly well; strength
____ 2. volubly b. incapable of accomplishing anything
____ 3. predominant c. to beg or plead
____ 4. repugnance d. irritation, annoyance
____ 5. supplicate e. detailed explanations
____ 6. caprices f. reliable, trustworthy
____ 7. exactor g. one who expects strict adherence to rules or expectations
____ 8. ennui h. extreme dislike, aversion
____ 9. forte i. noticeable or prevailing
____ 10. inefficiency j. speaking continuously, without pause
____ 11. tenets k. sudden impulsive changes in mood or actions
____ 12. credible l. liveliness, briskness, eager action
____ 13. alacrity m. boredom, dissatisfaction
____ 14. vexation n. principles, beliefs

The vocabulary words in the left column below are adjectives, the phrases in the right column are examples or things that might be described by the adjectives. Match the adjective with its correct description by writing the letter in the blank at left.

____ 15. allegorical a. speech given by the guest of honor at a surprise party
____ 16. aesthetic b. John Bunyan’s characters in *The Pilgrim’s Progress*
____ 17. affianced c. morning light through a stained glass window
____ 18. extemporary d. the interests of a collector of fine art
____ 19. sallow e. a young couple shopping for wedding bands
____ 20. ethereal f. the appearance of an elderly woman confined to her bed
Questions:
1. How does Uncle Tom make Eva’s acquaintance?

2. How would you characterize St. Clare’s tone throughout his negotiations with Haley?

3. What guarantee does St. Clare ask of Haley in regard to Tom that Haley declares himself unable to give?

4. What reason does Eva give her father for wanting him to buy Uncle Tom?

5. How did Augustine St. Clare come to marry Marie?

6. What is St. Clare’s reason for bringing his cousin Ophelia to live in his home?

7. In what manner does Marie St. Clare greet her child, her husband, and Tom?

8. As St. Clare and Eva are welcomed home by the family slaves, what occurs that Ophelia finds disgusting?

9. In Chapter 16, Marie makes two conflicting statements about the cause of her ill health. To what does she attribute it? What does this suggest about her?
Analysis:

10. Imagery is language that appeals to the senses. Most images are visual, but imagery may appeal to any of the five senses. Imagery is particularly important in poetry, but it is used in all descriptive writing. Stowe often uses vivid imagery in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

    Read the first four paragraphs of Chapter 14, in which Stowe describes the Mississippi River and its surroundings. List two or three examples of imagery in the paragraphs and state to which sense or senses each example appeals.

11. Stowe also makes use of *alliteration*, a sound device frequently used in poetry. Alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in words that are close to one another, as the “n” sound in “While I nodded, nearly napping” (“The Raven,” Edgar Allen Poe). Reread the first four paragraphs of Chapter 14, then list at least two examples of alliteration, as well as any figures of speech (similes, metaphors, personification) you find.

12. List three similes used in Stowe’s description of Eva St. Clare in Chapter 14.

13. Marie St. Clare says that Mammy is “dreadfully selfish.” What example of Mammy’s selfishness does Marie give?

Although this scene is relatively short, it is effective in a number of ways. How is it ironic, what does it tell us about her character, and what purposes do you think Stowe intended this scene to accomplish?
14. Some metaphors are directly stated, such as “The moon is an eye, winking at me.” Others are implied, as in “The moon is winking at me.” In the second example, the word *winking* suggests a comparison between the moon and an eye. Locate and list three metaphors in Chapter 16, identifying them as either direct or implied metaphors.

15. What is Marie St. Clare’s motive for attending church? What is Eva’s motive?

16. Look up the word *evangel* in the dictionary. What does St. Clare mean when he says that God has made Eva an evangel to him?

**Dig Deeper:**
17. In Chapter 14, as Tom is travelling on the riverboat, Stowe says he found comfort in the Bible. One of the passages Tom reads is John 14:1–2. Look up these verses, and then read John 13 and 14 for the context. What is going on in these chapters? Why might Tom find these passages comforting?

When things are stressful for you, where do you find comfort?
18. St. Clare confronts Ophelia with the idea that many northern abolitionists are more prejudiced against blacks than southern slave owners. Upon what does he base this opinion? Do you think he is correct?

Review the section in Chapter 15 in which Stowe describes Miss Ophelia's family and community. Do you see any other ways in which her family and community may be prejudiced?

19. Near the middle of Chapter 12, two pastors quote scripture in a discussion about slavery; one apparently holding an opinion similar to Dr. G.’s in Marie’s church, and the other holding an opinion more similar to Miss Ophelia and St. Clare. Near the end of Chapter 16, St. Clare says of the people who use the Bible like Dr. G.:

   Religion! Is what you hear at church religion? Is that which can bend and turn, and descend and ascend, to fit every crooked phase of selfish, worldly society, religion? . . . No! When I look for a religion, I must look for something above me, and not something beneath.

According to St. Clare, is what Dr. G. teaching true religion? Why? Looking back to the scriptures quoted by the two parsons in Chapter 12, which one is clear and to the point about the way people should be treated, and which verse must be “interpreted” or explained to make it fit the speaker’s claims? Explain why you think the one passage is clear and the other must “bend and turn” to fit.
**Chapters 17–18**

**Vocabulary:**
In the blanks next to the sentences below, write the letter of the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word. Some definitions will not be used.

| a. self-evident principle | j. person with refined taste |
| b. with excessive haste | k. faithfulness |
| c. forceful expression | l. inconsistent, eccentric |
| d. articles of art | m. conversation |
| e. lazy | n. aimless |
| f. beginning | o. pass time pleasantly |
| g. varied, many | p. nonsense; showy but worthless finery |
| h. narrow gorge or pass | q. optimistic |
| i. unsophisticated | |

1. During this brief **colloquy**, Eliza had been taking leave of her kind friend Rachel.
2. Phineas seemed, on the whole, the briskest of company, and **beguiled** his long drive with whistling certain very unquaker-like songs.
3. A few moments’ scrambling brought them to the top of the ledge; the path then passed between a narrow **defile**, where only one could walk at a time.
4. “Lord help us, they are perfect devils!” said Marks, heading the retreat down the rocks . . . while all the party came tumbling down **precipitately** after him.
5. St. Clare was **indolent** and careless of money.
6. Tom regarded his gay, airy, handsome young master with an odd mixture of **fealty**, reverence, and fatherly solicitude.
7. Tom and Adolph assisted to get [St. Clare] composed for the night. The latter . . . laughing heartily at the **rusticity** of Tom’s horror.
8. Who shall detail the tribulations **manifold** of our friend Miss Ophelia, who had begun the labors of a Southern housekeeper?
9. Dinah was a self-taught genius, and, like geniuses in general, was positive, opinionated, and **erratic** to the last degree.
10. Indeed, it was an **axiom** with [Dinah] that the cook can do no wrong.

11. Though [Dinah’s] mode of doing everything was particularly **meandering** and circuitous . . . , if one would have the patience to wait her own good time, up would come her dinner . . . in a style of preparation with which an **epicure** could find no fault.

12. It was now the season of **incipient** preparation for dinner.

13. The more drawers and closets there were, the more hiding-holes could Dinah make for . . . the articles of **vertu** wherein her soul delighted.

14. “I’d like to have Missis say which is worth the most—a couple such as you or one like me. Get out wid ye, ye **trumpery**, I won’t have ye round!”

**Questions:**

1. The Quakers are committed to nonviolence. How does Simeon Halliday respond to George’s assertion that he will fight to the death to defend his wife and child?

2. George tells the Quakers that he and Jim are “as brave as death and despair.” What do you think he means?

3. After George shoots Tom Loker, Eliza and Jim’s mother express their hope that he isn’t dead. What reason do they give for their concern?

4. What do the party of slave hunters do with Loker after he is injured? What do the fugitives do with him?

5. Why does St. Clare refuse to discipline or even scold any of his slaves?

6. Why does Dinah think that Ophelia St. Clare is not a lady?
7. St. Clare takes a philosophical view about every aspect of the Southern system of slavery. What is his response to Ophelia’s complaints about the time that is wasted because of the “shiftless management” of the servants?

8. What does St. Clare believe is his responsibility regarding the souls of his servants?

Analysis:
9. What two figures of speech do you find in the following quotation from Chapter 17? Underline the words involved.

   The afternoon shadows stretched eastward, and the round red sun stood thoughtfully on the horizon, and his beams shown yellow and calm into the little bed-room where George and his wife were sitting.

10. The author tells us that any effort on Ophelia’s part to bring order or practicality to St. Clare’s household met with such resistance from the servants, that her efforts were like those of Sisyphus and the Danaides. Look up the two names in an unabridged dictionary or other resource (a book on Greek mythology if you have access to one). Who were Sisyphus and the Danaides? What does Stowe mean by this allusion?

Dig Deeper:
11. In Chapter 17, Simeon warns George to not be hasty in fighting. George asks Simeon if he could be blamed for wanting to fight for his wife and child, and Simeon responds,

   “Mortal man cannot blame thee, George. Flesh and blood could not do otherwise. . . . Woe unto the world because of offences, but woe unto them through whom the offence cometh.”

   “Would not even you, sir, do the same, in my place?”

   “I pray that I be not tried,” said Simeon; “the flesh is weak.”
What is Simeon saying to George? Can you think of a Bible verse or common saying that is similar to Simeon’s statements?

12. At the home of the Hallidays, when George learns that his pursuers are close behind, and he cries out in despair that God seems unjust, Simeon Halliday reads to him from Psalm 73. Read the Psalm in its entirety. If you have access to a translation different from your own, read the Psalm a second time in that translation. How is the psalmist’s situation similar to George’s? What comfort does the psalmist find?

Have you ever felt that life was unfair? Have you ever thought that God should not allow terrible things to happen to “good Christians?” What do you do at such times? How can Psalm 73 help us put suffering in perspective?

13. Read Genesis 39:1–6. How does Uncle Tom’s position in the St. Clare home parallel that of Joseph in Potiphar’s household?

How do you feel when you are given a task not of your own choosing, something that maybe you don’t really want to do? Read Colossians 3:23–24. How do these verses reaffirm the example of Joseph? How do they teach us to go about our work?
14. In Chapter 18, when Miss Ophelia complains to St. Clare about the waste and disorganization of Dinah, he tells her that she should not judge Dinah by her methods, but “you must judge her as warriors and statesmen are judged, by her success.” What does St. Clare mean by this? Do you agree?