Chapters 27–30

Vocabulary:
An *antonym* of a word is another word with the opposite meaning. From the column on the right, choose the best antonym for each vocabulary word. You will not use all of the choices.

1. destitute  a. enslave
2. oracularly  b. vitality
3. vociferated  c. submissively
4. lethargy  d. commanding
5. fastidious  e. steady, consistent
6. emancipate  f. careless
7. philanthropy  g. berated
8. volatile  h. selfishness
9. peremptorily  i. prosperous
10. servile  j. meaningful
          k. whispered
          l. straightforwardly

Questions:
1. How does Eva’s death change Ophelia’s relationship with Topsy?

2. How does St. Clare handle his grief over Eva’s death? Who realizes the depth of his suffering?
3. St. Clare tells Tom that although he wants to believe the Bible, he does not and cannot. Why is his unbelief a crisis for him now?

4. Upon returning to New Orleans, what promise to Eva does St. Clare set out to fulfill?

5. Why do you think St. Clare attaches himself to Tom?

6. What does Ophelia press St. Clare to do immediately? Why?

7. What does St. Clare point out to Ophelia as the overwhelming problem that must follow if the nation emancipates?

8. When St. Clare is being arranged for his funeral, what is found upon his person?

9. What happens to the St. Clare slaves in Chapter 30?

Analysis:

10. Sometimes an author will use the sentence structure and rhythm to create a mood or suggest a character’s frame of mind. Early in Chapter 27, in the paragraph beginning “There were, for a while, soft whisperings and foot-falls in the chamber,” Stowe describes the funeral day as St. Clare experiences it. How is the sentence structure in this paragraph different from other paragraphs? How does the structure and rhythm communicate and affect the mood of the events?
11. *Anaphora* is the repetition of a word or phrase, usually at the beginning or end of a sentence or paragraph. It is used to draw attention to an idea or to unify ideas within the text. How is anaphora used in the paragraph discussed above?

12. Near the beginning of Chapter 28, Stowe observes, concerning St. Clare’s reticence to embrace Christianity, “For, so inconsistent is human nature, especially in the ideal, that not to undertake a thing at all seems better than to undertake and come short.” What does this mean? Have you or someone you know ever behaved this way?

13. There are several significant instances of foreshadowing in Chapter 28. Locate and list at least four of these. What do the passages suggest will happen?

**Dig Deeper:**

14. St. Clare asks Uncle Tom how he knows that Christ is real, since Tom has never seen him. What is Tom’s response? What evidence from his own life does Tom offer to St. Clare?

15. Tom asks St. Clare to read to him from the Bible and opens to the raising of Lazarus in John 11. Read John 11:17–44. Why might Tom have chosen this particular passage? Look for a key verse that Tom might have hoped would make an impact on St. Clare in the midst of his grief and unbelief.
16. In Chapter 27, St. Clare tells Tom, “‘I want to believe this Bible,—and I can’t.’” Tom responds, “pray to the good Lord,—‘Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief.’” Tom is quoting Mark 9:24. Look up this verse and read it in context. What does the man mean by this statement? Did Jesus grant the father’s request?

Have you ever felt as the father does in this passage? Taking the scripture passage as a guide, do you think God would honor St. Clare’s request to “help him in his unbelief”? Would he help you?

17. In Chapter 29, what particularly shamed Rosa and outraged Ophelia about the order Marie wrote out to have Rosa whipped? How does this relate to the fears Susan has for her daughter in Chapter 30 and the way in which Simon Lagree treats Emmeline?

Optional Activity:

1. The Latin lines St. Clare quotes the night he dies are from Dies Irae a 13th century Latin hymn used in the Catholic Requiem Mass. Mozart also used them in his Requiem, the last work he completed (although technically he did not finish it; his widow had it completed). If you know someone who speaks Latin, invite them to read the Requiem Mass to you. You may also find an English translation of either the Dies Irae or Mozart’s Requiem and read them aloud. Find a recording of Mozart’s Requiem and listen to it.
Chapters 31–36

Vocabulary:
For each of the following groups of words, fill in the blank with the vocabulary word that most nearly matches the other words in meaning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word List</th>
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<tr>
<td>potentate</td>
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<td>antipathy</td>
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<td>prudential</td>
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1. __________________________________________  
   rowdy        raucous        clamorous

2. __________________________________________  
   bunk         cot            mattress

3. __________________________________________  
   apprehensive nervous timid

4. __________________________________________  
   liberate free disentangle

5. __________________________________________  
   commander leader monarch

6. __________________________________________  
   degenerate villain wretch

7. __________________________________________  
   careful cautious discreet
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8. ____________________________
   animosity   hostility   loathing

9. ____________________________
   understanding   empathy   pity

10. ____________________________
    antagonism   repugnance   dislike

11. ____________________________
    occult   sorcery   black magic

Questions:
1. What does Simon Legree do with Tom’s clothes and personal belongings?

2. How long does Simon Legree expect his slaves to last? Why does he treat them the way he does?

3. What act of kindness does Tom perform on his first night in the slave quarters? What response does he receive?

4. Although Tom is a diligent worker, and he is respectful, Simon Legree dislikes him. What reason does Stowe give for this?

5. Why does Legree want to break Tom of feeling compassion for his fellow slaves?

6. What kindness does Tom show Lucy while the hands are in the cotton fields? What is Lucy’s reaction?
7. How does Cassy respond when Sambo threatens her with his whip?

8. What is Legree’s idea for breaking Tom in, making him into an overseer?

9. In just a few sentences, summarize Cassy’s history.

10. Why does Legree fear Cassy?

Analysis:

11. Using an unidentified man on the boat as her voice, where does Stowe lay responsibility for the brutality of men such as Legree?

12. Mood describes the feelings or impressions readers get from a story or passage. An author sets the mood with descriptions, images, or language. For example, an author may express a feeling of sadness by describing gray skies and rain. An author may set a mood of fear by placing frightening images in her writing.

   Note the words Stowe uses to describe the surroundings on the journey from the boat landing to Legree’s plantation. What mood do they give this passage? List three words or phrases that contribute to this mood.

13. List three words or phrases that affect the mood of the passage describing Legree’s plantation as the group approaches it.
14. What overall impression is created by these descriptions to characterize the life into which Tom has been sold?

15. How does Cassy bring both mercy and temptation to Tom after his beating?

16. Compare Cassy’s situation with Tom’s at this point in the novel. Which of the two do you think is in more bearable circumstances? Why?

17. What does Sambo take from Tom at the time of his beating? What does Sambo say it is when he gives the thing to Legree? Why does it frighten Legree?

18. In Chapter 36, Cassy tells Tom, “‘There’s a place way out down by the quarters, where you can see a black, blasted tree, and the ground all covered with black ashes. Ask any one what was done there, and see if they will dare to tell you.’” Later, as Legree talks with and threatens Tom, he gives Tom a clue as to what is done by the tree. What does Legree do at the blackened tree?

Dig Deeper:

19. Early in Chapter 31, as Legree is traveling with Tom and the other new slaves on the boat, Legree describes his management ideas and practices concerning his slaves. Summarize in a sentence or two what he tells the stranger on the boat.
How do you think Legree got this attitude? How does he value these people? Can we get this attitude toward people as we work and interact with them? Have you seen a form of this attitude on a job, in sports, in performing arts, or somewhere else?

20. Read Matthew 7:12 and 22:36–40. How do these verses relate to the situation above? If a person were to follow the commands in these verses, could a person develop an attitude similar to Legree’s? Does Tom live out these verses at Legree’s?

21. Early in Chapter 31, Legree tells Tom, “I’m your church now!” and later, in Chapter 34, Legree challenges him, “An’t I yer master? . . . An’t yer mine, now, body and soul?” To the last question Tom answers,

“No! no! no! my soul an’t yours, Mas’r! You haven’t bought it,—ye can’t buy it! It’s been bought and paid for, by one that is able to keep it;—no matter, no matter, you can’t harm me!”

Are Tom and Legree talking about the same thing? Explain your answer.

Read 1 Peter 1:3–6; Romans 8:18, 35–39. How do these verses compare with what Tom tells Legree?
22. Why does Legree keep Cassy on his place? Why does she tell Tom, “Don’t call me Missis! I’m a miserable slave, like yourself,—a lower one than you can ever be!”

23. For the first time in Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Tom is in real physical pain and suffering in Chapter 34, seemingly without hope and potentially in danger of death. Even though he comes close to despair a few times, and clearly understands what may lie ahead at the hands of Legree, he never quite gives up hope. Read Romans 8:18, 26–28, 31–39; and 1 Peter 4:12–16, 19. What in these verses explains the certainty Tom shows in Chapter 34? Do you have the same certainty in your life?

Optional Activity:

In Chapter 35, Stowe says to the reader, “Ye who have wondered to hear, in the same evangel, that God is love, and that God is a consuming fire, see ye not how, to the soul resolved in evil, perfect love is the most fearful torture . . . ?” The idea of a God who is both all-loving and perfectly just, both loving some and condemning others, has bothered people and caused much debate throughout history. As a group, discuss and or debate some or all of the following questions:

a. If perfect God made a perfect universe that he loved, if he truly loved it and the people who turned to him, could he continue to allow it to be polluted by sin and evil?

b. If heaven is being with God, can anything or anyone that rebels against God (disobeys by sinning), even in the smallest way, be in heaven with God?

c. Do those who refuse to accept God or to obey God, even if they are good by human standards, deserve to be with God, or is God justified in not allowing them to join him?

d. If God tells us what will happen to us if we reject him, creates a way by which we can be made not guilty of our sin and accept him, and yet we still reject him, on whom lies the guilt of our decision?

e. Can God love someone who rejects him?