

## For The Teacher

Heroes and heroines come from diverse backgrounds. This was certainly true in the Abolitionist Movement. *The Abolitionists: Heroes and Heroines of the Antislavery Movement* showcases the contributions of several men and women who worked tirelessly to advance a cause close to their hearts and at the forefront of the conscience of many Americans. While there is an long list of historical figures who could have been included here, these represent a sampling of those prominent in the movement, from a variety of backgrounds.

In this packet you will find a page of informational text about each figure, carefully researched for accuracy and highlighting the significant contributions made by the individual. Featured are:

Frederick Douglass  
Sojourner Truth  
Charles Sumner  
Harriet Beecher Stowe  
Harriet Tubman  
John Brown  
Abraham Lincoln

Each informational article is followed by a page of questions that require close reading of the text and reflective thought by the student. Answer keys are included for all pages. Each article stands alone. You therefore have the option to use as many or as few of the articles as suit your purpose and time frame.

Included at the end of the packet is my *Close Reading Informational Text: A Common Core Graphic Organizer for Any Text*, available separately in my store, but included here at no extra charge. Useful for any informational or non-fiction text on any subject, it can be completed in one session or done over a period of days. It hits the goals of repeated, close reading, vocabulary building and in-depth comprehension with repeated returns to the text embedded in the activities. It is suitable for a wide range of ages from late elementary through middle school and beyond and is useful for all subjects. It is also perfect for substitute teachers and homeschooling families or anyone who appreciates carefully scaffolded activities. Use it again and again.

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I also design classroom utility apps for iPhone and iPad. Please visit my website to learn more about these low-cost, high performing apps designed for busy teachers: "Where My Students?", "Classroom Seating Chart and Attendance", and "Teacher's Tally Tracker." You can find these at:

<http://www.lessonsfromtheclassroom.com/iphoneipad-apps/>



## Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811 - 1896)

Author Harriet Beecher Stowe was born in Litchfield, Connecticut on June 14, 1811 to a deeply religious family. For a time she lived in Ohio, later moving to Maine when her husband began teaching at Bowdoin College. Together they supported the Underground Railroad. Their home in Brunswick, Maine became a temporary refuge, or 'station', for slaves making their way to freedom in the Northern United States and Canada.

During her lifetime, Stowe wrote more than 30 books. It was *Uncle Tom's Cabin* that thrust her into the national spotlight and gave her a place in history. The story was first published a chapter at a time in a weekly magazine. In 1852, it came out in book form.

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* gave readers a window into the pain of slavery by showing its effects on families. Readers watched as Stowe's characters experienced the harshness of slave life, grappled with the difficult decision of whether to escape, and suffered the cruelty of a particularly fierce master. Stowe's informal style of writing appealed to people in a way that political speeches could not.

Stowe's novel stirred up so much interest that eight printing presses were kept busy around the clock keeping up with the demand for copies of the book. It was translated into thirty languages.

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* demanded that the United States fulfill its promise of freedom and equality. It galvanized the abolitionist movement and has been attributed as a cause of the Civil War.

Harriet Beecher Stowe once met President Abraham Lincoln, in 1862. Legend has it that when he met her, President Lincoln said, "You're the little woman who made this great war!"

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Harriet Beecher Stowe  
(1811 - 1896)

1. In *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Simon Legree, a brutal master, says to one of his slaves, "Ain't I yer master? Didn't I pay \$1,200 cash...? Ain't yer mine, now, body and soul?" How do you think scenes such as this helped convince readers to support abolition?

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SAMPLE

2. Why do you think the book was so popular and had such a large impact? Use your own thoughts and details from the text to explain your answer.

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1. In *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Simon Legree, a brutal master, says to one of his slaves, "Ain't I yer master? Didn't I pay \$1,200 cash...? Ain't yer mine, now, body and soul?" How do you think scenes such as this helped convince readers to support abolition?

*By writing such scenes, Stowe brought them to life for the reader. In the book readers get to know the characters and can imagine themselves in their situation. It made the idea of being owned real.*

2. Why do you think the book was so popular and had such a large impact? Use your own thoughts and details from the text to explain your answer.

Answers will vary, but should relate back to this passage: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* gave readers a window into the pain of slavery by showing its effects on families. Readers watched as Stowe's characters experienced the harshness of slave life, grappled with the difficult decision of whether to escape, and suffered the cruelty of a particularly fierce master. Stowe's informal style of writing appealed to people in a way that political speeches could not.