

AP ENGLISH 11 SUMMER READING GUIDE

*Uncle Tom's Cabin*  
Harriet Beecher Stowe

Let's get something straight from the start. You are not reading *Uncle Tom's Cabin* because it's a great work of art. It's not. You are not reading *Uncle Tom's Cabin* because you will find it a good beach book. You won't. You are reading *Uncle Tom's Cabin* because **it is a single work of literature that sent a nation to war**. You are reading *Uncle Tom's Cabin* because any educated person in the United States knows what's in the book and the magnitude of its impact on social conscience in America even today.

To get a handle on the book, you are required to fill out the chart below for a grade. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* follows the course of two groups of people: Eliza and George, who escape from slavery to head north, and Uncle Tom, who, ensnared deeper and deeper in bondage, moves in the opposite direction. Along the way, these three people interact with various free men and women who exemplify American attitudes towards slavery in the pre-Civil War era. (1) Identify how each of the following people regards slavery as an institution and (2) comment on what steps they take to act upon their beliefs. Be specific. It may help you to note page numbers that relate to these characters.

**Mrs. Shelby**

- 1.
- 2.

**Mr. Shelby**

- 1.
- 2.

**George Shelby**

- 1.
- 2.

**Mr. Harris (George's owner)**

- 1.
- 2.

**George Harris**

- 1.
- 2.

**Mr. Wilson**

- 1.

2.

**Mr. Haley**

1.

2.

**Eliza Harris**

1.

2.

**Uncle Tom**

1.

2.

**Tom Loker**

1.

2.

**Senator and Mrs. Bird**

1.

2.

**Rachel and Ruth Halliday**

1.

2.

**Augustine St. Clare**

1.

2.

**Ophelia St. Clare**

1.

2.

**Simon Legree**

1.

2.