

Literary Review

CHARACTER STUDY

DRED: A TALE OF THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP

By Harriet Beecher Stowe

You can read this novel online at: <http://www.docsouth.unc.edu/>

The reason this book was selected for a literary review project of historical fiction is because it is an excellent source to examine the southern culture, which created the need for an underground railroad. This novel written by Harriet Beecher Stowe (author of Uncle Tom's Cabin) is considered by critics to be her best work, was inspired by Buxton and Rev. King. You will have an opportunity to explore the conditions refugees were leaving when they settled in Canada. As well, you may better appreciate the significance of the Elgin Settlement in Canadian and world history. Consider what changes were made since this novel was written in 1856.

Literary Character Study

You have an opportunity to become acquainted with a major character from the novel, DRED: A Tale Of The Great Dismal Swamp. Excerpts were selected to illustrate a variety of issues encountered by people in bondage through the institution of slavery as existed in the United States. These excerpts are provided as resources.

Assignment

As you complete the reading, you will learn that Harry has come to a time in his life when he has major decisions to make. Finish 'Harry's Story' in your own words – what decisions did Harry make and how did they affect his life? Be prepared to share your story ending when you come to the Buxton SS #13 School for the literary portion of your lesson in 1910.