

# Literary Review

## EDUCATION

### DRED: A TALE OF THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP

By Harriet Beecher Stowe

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

The reason this novel 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.

#### Research Topic Assignment Choices:

Write a brief newspaper article on one of the following educational issues listed below. View the resource excerpts provided.

#### Education:

1. How could teaching a slave to read affect or threaten southern society?
2. If the master chose to teach or free his slaves, why could they NOT remain in the South where their family and friends were? Why were laws passed to prevent free or educated Blacks from living in the South?
3. Where could slaves be exposed to 'dangerous ideas' like liberty, justice or equality? In particular, why would a newspaper be considered dangerous?

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