Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's “Learning to Read”

Learning to Read: Version for Student Annotation

Name: __________________________________________           Date: _________________
Teacher: __________________________________________       Class: _________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verses</th>
<th>Summarize Meanings</th>
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<tr>
<td>1) Very soon the Yankee teachers Came down and set up school;</td>
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<td>2) But, oh! how the Rebs did hate it,-- It was agin’ their rule.</td>
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<td>3) Our masters always tried to hide Book learning from our eyes;</td>
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<td>4) Knowledge didn't agree with slavery, T’would make us all too wise.</td>
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<td>5) But some of us would try to steal A little from the book,</td>
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<td>6) And put the words together, And learn by hook or crook.</td>
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| 7) | I remember Uncle Caldwell  
     Who took pot-liquor fat |
| 8) | And greased the pages of his book,  
     And hid it in his hat. |
| 9) | And had his Master ever seen  
     The leaves upon his head, |
| 10) | He’d have thought them greasy papers,  
     But nothing to be read. |
| 11) | And there was Mr. Turner’s Ben,  
     Who heard the children spell, |
| 12) | And picked the words right up by heart,  
     And learned to read ‘em well. |
| 13) | Well, the Northern folks kept sending  
     The Yankee teachers down; |
| 14) | And they stood right up and helped us,  
     Though Rebs did sneer and frown |
| 15) | And, I longed to read my Bible,  
     For precious words it said; |
16) But when I begun to learn it,
   Folks just shook their heads.

17) And said, there is no use trying,
   Oh! Chloe, you’re too late;

18) But as I was rising sixty,
   I had not time to wait.

19) So I got a pair of glasses
    And straight to work I went,

20) And never stopped till I could read
    The hymns and Testament.

21) Then I got a little cabin--
    A place to call my own--

22) And I felt as independent
    As the queen upon her throne.