Comprehension
1. Recall  What prompts Linda to make the decision to escape?
2. Summarize  What actions do the Flints take after they find out Linda has left?
3. Clarify  Why does Linda want the Flints to sell her children?

Literary Analysis
4. Reading a Narrative  Review the web you made as you read. Which characters support Linda and which oppose her? Share questions you have about them.
5. Examine Narrative Elements  Describe different conflicts—internal and external—that Linda faces in this excerpt. What do these conflicts reveal about the institution of slavery and the sacrifices forced by it?
6. Analyze Characterization  How does the writer present herself? Discuss what you learn about her character and values from
   • her attitude toward her work (lines 2–3)
   • her thoughts as she visits her children (lines 48–54)
   • her insistence upon escaping alone (line 57)
7. Contrast Characterizations  Contrast the writer’s portrayal of herself with her portrayal of the Flints. What does she reveal about the Flints’ character and values?
8. Draw Conclusions  How might the writer’s political purpose and the knowledge that she was writing for an audience of Northern white women have influenced her characterizations?
9. Compare Texts  Read “Free Labor” and “Go Down, Moses” on pages 560 and 561. How do they compare with Harriet Jacobs’s narrative in their tone and their messages about slavery?

Literary Criticism
10. Author’s Style  Jacobs’s style was influenced by the literature popular in her time. Nineteenth-century women’s novels were melodramatic, arousing readers’ emotions with suspenseful plots that usually involved virtuous characters pitted against evil villains. Uncle Tom’s Cabin, an immensely popular antislavery novel, included such elements as well. It also rendered the speech of slave characters in heavy dialect, a convention of the time. How do you, as a modern reader, respond to Jacobs’s style? Evaluate the effects of her style on the power of her narrative.