**Abolitionist Movement**

Directions: Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

Excerpt from *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe:

**Background**: The following is a conversation between the slave Tom and his master, Legree, after Tom has been ordered to whip a fellow slave for not working hard enough and has refused.

“Legree, taking up a cowhide, and striking Tom a heavy blow cross the cheek, and following up the infliction by a shower of blows. "There!" he said, as he stopped to rest; "now, will ye tell me ye can't do it?"

"Yes, Mas'r," said Tom, putting up his hand, to wipe the blood, that trickled down his face. "I'm willin' to work, night and day, and work while there's life and breath in me; but this yer thing I can't feel it right to do; -- and, Mas'r, I never shall do it, -- never!"

Legree looked stupefied and confounded; but at last burst forth, -- "What! ye blasted black beast! tell me ye don't think it right to do what I tell ye! What have any of you cussed cattle to do with thinking what's right? I'll put a stop to it! Why, what do ye think ye are? May be ye think ye'r a gentleman master, Tom, to be a telling your master

what's right, and what ain't! So you pretend it's wrong to flog the gal!"

"I think so, Mas'r," said Tom; "the poor crittur's sick and feeble; it would be downright cruel, and it's what I never will do, nor begin to. Mas'r, if you mean to kill me, kill me; but, as to my raising my hand again any one here, I never shall, -- I'll die first!"”

1. Why did Tom refuse the masters command?
2. What was the master’s reaction and why must he react this way?
3. What is significant about the contrast in actions between Tom and the master?

Excerpt from the first issue of “The Liberator”by William Lloyd Garrison:

“I AM aware that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as Truth, and as uncompromising as Justice. On this subject I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen—but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch—***and I will be heard***. The apathy of the people is enough to make every statue leap from its pedestal and hasten the resurrection of the dead.”

1. What is the “subject” that Garrison is discussing?
2. What kind of approach does it seem Garrison is taking in this introduction? What is his tone?
3. How can anti-slavery/abolitionist newspapers and books help bring attention to the issue of slavery?
4. How effective do you believe both *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and “The Liberator” were based on what you know?