

Kirsten Johnson

Eliza

Found objects needed:

Length of chain
Baby's rattle
Collared shirt
Spade or shovel
Outdoor brush (or broom)
Paperback book

Text taken from Harriet Beecher Stowe's book, *The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Chapter 5, Eliza

While travelling in Kentucky, many years ago,
I attended church in a small country town.

While there, my attention was called to a beautiful quadroon girl,
who sat in one of the slips of the church,
and appeared to have charge of some young children.

I was told that she was as good and amiable as she was beautiful;
that she was a pious girl, and a member of the Church;
and, finally, that she was owned by Mr. So-and-so.

The idea that this girl was a slave struck a chill to her heart,
and she said earnestly, "Oh, I hope they treat her kindly."

"Oh, certainly," was the reply; "they think as much of her as of their own children."

"I hope they will never sell her," said a person in the company.

"Certainly they will not; a Southern gentleman, not long ago,
offered her master a thousand dollars for her;
but he told him that she was too good to be his wife,
and he certainly should not have her for a mistress."

That is all the writer knows of that girl.

Eliza

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Kirsten Johnson

Unhurried, telling a story ♩ = 76

Found Objects

Drag chain on hard floor, making S shapes

Flick chain in rhythm, drag for longer notes

Soprano

Spoken, somberly:
(note: the spoken text bars can be freely delivered, and take more time than beats allocated.)

While travelling in Kentucky, many years ago, I attended church in a small country town.

Sung with a slight twang
mp

Shall we gath-er by the ri - ver? The beau - ti - ful ri - ver.

rattle chain

Baby's rattle
mf

Spoken

While there, my attention was called to a beautiful quadroon girl, who sat in one of the slips of the church,

and appeared to have charge of some young children. I was

mf

♩ = 66

Firmly shake collared shirt

told that she was as good and am-i-a-ble as she was beau-ti-ful; that she was a

Hit spade/shovel on floor

pi-ous girl, and a mem-ber of the Church; and fin-al-ly that she was

vocal slide

own'd by Mis-ter So-and-so. The i - de - a, the i - de - a, the i -

Sprechstimme

dea that this girl, beau-ti-ful girl was a slave struck a

tr *f* *mp*