This tale was not at first written as a story for little girls and boys. It was
told to grown-up people by a kind and gentle lady with a big loving
heart. This lady was called Harriet Beecher Stowe, and she told the story
to grown-up people to make them think.

Harriet Beecher Stowe lived in a country where there were slaves, that
is, in a country where men and women might be bought and sold like
cattle. The people who lived in that country were so used to having
slaves that they never thought of the miserable and unhappy life which
the poor slaves led. But by degrees a few people began to see what a
dreadful thing slavery was. Among these people was this kind lady. She
loved her own little children, and she felt as if these poor black people
were children too. She longed to comfort them as she comforted her own
little ones when they were in trouble.

So she wrote this book about the slaves, and many of the things she
tells of really happened. She told the story to make people think about
the cruel way in which slaves were treated, and it did make them think
about it. The book was bought by people all over the world, and those
who could not read it in English had it translated into their own
languages, and some time afterwards all slaves were set free.

'Uncle Tom's Cabin' is a sad story, but there are no slaves now who can
be made to suffer like Uncle Tom and the other people in the book, so
we need not be sad over it. We should rather be glad when we remember
that this very story helped to make the poor slaves happy and free.

The story should be very interesting to girls, because it shows what a
woman can do. We read in history of kings and queens who did great
things, but the lady who wrote this book was only a simple person like
ourselves, yet she did such a great thing in telling this story that she
helped to make history just as much as many of these kings and queens,
and perhaps her name will be remembered as long as theirs.
Of course, as the book was not really written for little girls and boys, a good deal has had to be left out or made different, but I have tried to tell the story as much as possible as Harriet Beecher Stowe did, for I do not think any one could tell it better.