Cristal baheng

**Slavery 1775-1865**

The Listener, Gloria Wholan, Sleeping Bear Press, 2009

(Fictional characters in documented historical situations.)

The Listeners is in first person. The main character is Ella Mae and she is telling the story as a ten-year-old girl. The setting is in the plantation where she worked during slavery 1775-1865.

In the morning, she wakes up and it is still dark when the master blows on the bugle. It gives the slaves a signal that it is time to get to work. Ella Mae is very tired when she wakes up every morning. After a long day of work. Ella Mae, Bobby, and Sue go in the dark to hide under the master’s window and listen to the master’s conversations to tell the other slaves. They bring information, whatever good or bad news, back to the slaves. One bad thing they heard was that Ella Mae’s dad might be being sold because he was the best cotton picker out of all in the plantation.

Ella Mae was brave listening to the master’s conversations because she had to bring information back to the slaves. Sue is strong because her dad was sold and never seen again. These traits help the children because when dangerous times come they will now what to do. The theme is listen and good things might come. The characters show us this because they listened to the master and heard Abraham Lincoln was elected and wanted to STOP slavery.

If the dad told the story, he would be worried about Ella Mae going to listen to the master’s conversation. Ella Mae’s dad would be putting cotton in her basket because she hardly had cotton in her basket so she would not get in trouble .Ella Mae’s dad would be looking over her like a guard because he loved her more than anything.

Through the characters we learned about history during 1775-1865 slavery. Slavery was one of the hardest things of life because they didn’t have choice in working for the master. Slavery was SO bad that families would be pulled apart and family members would never see each other again!!!! Ella Mae, Bobby, and Sue interactions show how children would go would go listen to the master conversation to get new back to the slaves . The characters are happy at the end because they heard the master say he heard Abraham Lincoln was elected and wanted to stop slavery.

Historical facts from the story :

1. Slaves were forced to work not asked.
2. Slaves had their own religion and own church.
3. Slaves were not allowed to learn.

Historical facts from the author’s notes :

1. Slaves where pulled apart from their family and never seen again.
2. The life of slaves depended on circumstances beyond their control.
3. Slaves never knew when they would be pulled apart from each other.