Uncle Tom’s Cabin Essay Prompts

1. Why do you think Mr. Shelby calls Harry “Jim Crow”?
2. In the following excerpts from the story, both Mr. Shelby and Mr. Harley profess to be “humane” men. What is ironic about their claims? Who do you think Stowe is referring to in the title of this chapter, “In Which the Reader is introduced to a Man of Humanity”?

“I would rather not sell him.” Said Mr. Shelby, thoughtfully; “the fact is, sir, I’m a humane man, and I hate to take the boy

from his mother, sir.”

“And I lays it all to my management, sir; and humanity, sir, I may say, is the great pillar of my management.”

1. Why is slavery in Kentucky an example of the “mildest form of the system of slavery”?

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