

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Name _____

STUDY-GUIDE

PART ONE: Huck and Jim—River and Shore

CHAPTER 1

1. Who is Huck Finn? Give his history (summary of the end of the novel, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer) and explain his present circumstances.
2. Why does Twain choose a young boy as the narrator for the novel?
3. In which period in history does the novel take place?
4. Compare the character of the Widow Douglas to her sister, Miss Watson. Explain why it is so easy to confuse them.
5. Who is Tom Sawyer? Why does Huck think Tom is so intelligent?
6. Give an example of superstition and an example of satire in this chapter.
7. Why is the issue of "civilization/being civilized" important in this chapter?

CHAPTERS 2-5

8. Describe Huck and Tom's games and explain the significance of the games.
9. Where does Tom get his ideas for robbing and killing people?
10. Contrast the personalities of Huck and Tom.
11. How does Huck feel about school?
12. Explain the relationship between Pap Finn and Huck.
13. Explain why Huck gives Judge Thatcher his money and what the judge gives him in return.
14. Why does Pap feel the way he does about Huck's ability to read and write?

15.What is Twain's commentary on superstition in Chapter 4?

CHAPTERS 6-9

17.Describe the way Twain uses Huck's plan for escape as a tool to reveal Huck's character.

18.Discuss two things about which Huck changes his mind after his kidnapping and escape.

19.What interrupts Huck's comfortable and relaxed feeling the first morning on the island? Who does Huck meet on Jackson's Island? What promise does Huck make to him? Why?

20.How does Jim determine his worth as a person? Why does he consider himself to be rich? Why is he running away?

21.How is Huck forced to question his personal values when he meets Jim and realizes why all of the townspeople are on the river that morning?

22.Why is Huck and Jim's choice of a home on the island critical to their survival?

CHAPTERS 10-13

23.Discuss the details and the importance of the incident with Jim, Huck and the rattlesnake. What does the reader learn about each character because of the incident?

24.How does Huck get information about his death? Who is accused of his murder? How does Huck react to the news?

25.Explain why the scene between Huck and Mrs. Judith Loftis provides humor, reveals aspects of Huck's character and allows Twain to explore the theme of appearance vs. reality.

26. Describe the raft trip down the river. What is the plan?

27. What does the reader learn about Huck when he says "I lifted a chicken" and "borrowed a watermelon"?

28. What happens to Jim and Huck when they explore the Walter Scott?

29. Why does Huck want to rescue the robbers on the wrecked steamboat? How does he feel the Widow Douglas would feel about him helping the "rapscallions"?

CHAPTERS 14-17

30. What does Twain reveal about Huck and Jim through their discussion about royalty?

31. What is Huck's opinion of Jim's intelligence? How can Jim be both "level headed" and "unable to argue" at the same time?

32. Discuss the significance of Jim and Huck's adventure in the fog. What does Twain teach the reader about each character with this incident?

33. Explain the importance of Jim's dream interpretation as an example of foreshadowing.

34. Why might some critics consider Huck's response to Jim after the "fog episode" the critical turning point in the novel? Contrast Huck's behavior in this situation with his behavior after the snake incident.

35. What is it that Jim wants to do for his family that Huck finds so difficult to understand?

36. Why does Huck's conscience bother him as he and Jim approach Cairo? What does he decide to do to relieve his guilt?

37. How does Huck protect Jim from the slave hunters? What is Huck's initial reaction after he protects Jim?

38. How do Jim and Huck become separated?

39. How does Twain use Huck to comment on Emmeline's art and poetry?

40. Why does Huck go into extended descriptions of the furnishings and pictures in the Grangerford's house?

CHAPTER 18- PART II - THE KING AND THE DUKE CHAPTERS 19- 21

41. Who are the Shepherdsons?

42. Who are the Grangerfords?

43. Why are the Shepherdsons and the Grangerfords feuding? How does Twain use the feud to satirize the southern upper-class?

44. How are Huck and Jim reunited again?

45. How does life on the Mississippi represent a kind of paradise for Huck and Jim in chapter 19?

46. How does this scene contrast with the previous episode?

47. Explain how, earlier, Twain foreshadowed the appearance of the duke and the king.

48. How does Huck explain the fact that he and Jim travel by night?

49. What happens at the camp meeting?

50. What happens between Sherburn and Boggs? How is this incident the act of a gentleman and an officer?

CHAPTERS 22-25

51. How does Sherburn define "a man"? How does he avoid being lynched?

52. How does Twain use the incident to satirize mob psychology?

53. What attracts the crowd at the performance of The Royal Nonesuch?

54. What does Jim do for Huck to show that he cares about him?

55. For whom is Jim homesick in these chapters?

56. How and why is Jim disguised? How could this be satirical towards the racism of the time?

57. Why is Huck enjoying the role-playing and acting? Why does he lie now?

58. How does the king find out about the Wilks family? What is the scheme?

59. What is the problem with the inheritance money? How does the gang solve it?

60. How do the king and the duke gain the confidence of everyone?

61. Describe Mary Jane Wilks. Describe Joanna.

CHAPTERS 26-29

62. Why does Jo suspect a trick? Why is it that no one believes her?

63. Why does Huck's heart bother him now? What is his plan?

64. Why is he not worried about the auction? What is his reaction to watching the Wilks' separation from their slaves?

65. Why doesn't Huck reveal the duke and the king's plan when they allow the slaves to be separated from their families?

66. Why does Huck tell Mary Jane the truth?

67. What causes the plan to fall apart?

68. How does Huck escape from the mob? From what does he not escape?

69. In what way does Twain use this episode to repeat the theme of separation of families through the buying and selling of slaves?

CHAPTERS 30- PART III - JIM'S RESCUE 31-33

70. What causes the relationship between the duke and the king to deteriorate?

71. How does Huck plan to get rid of them?

72. How does Huck react when he discovers that the king and the duke have sold Jim?

73. What does Huck decide to do to free Jim?

74. Why can't he send the letter? Some critics identify this decision as the most significant event in the novel. Explain why you agree or disagree.

75. What is the difference between Huck's conscience and his heart?

76. Some critics argue that Huck's "No'm. Killed a . . ." (213) is a reversal of all he has learned. Why does he make the comment to Aunt Sally? Is this comment inconsistent with his previous behavior?

77. In Chapters 8, 16 and 31, the reader watches the development of Huck's moral integrity, his value system. Explain.

78. Why does Huck go to the Phelps' plantation?

79. Who does Huck impersonate?

80. What happens when Tom Sawyer shows up?

81. What happens to the king and the duke? Why is Huck surprisingly sympathetic to them?

CHAPTERS 34-37

82. How does Tom finally guess Jim's whereabouts? What is Tom's plan to rescue Jim?

83. Contrast Huck and Tom's plans for freeing Jim. How does Twain use this episode to teach the reader about each character?

84. Describe Twain's use of humor and irony in the "freeing episode."

85. How is Twain satirizing Romantic literature in this episode? Explain.

86. How does Twain create uncomfortable humor through Tom and Huck's efforts to free Jim?

87. Explain Twain's ironic use of the word "moral" in this section of the novel. Compare this use of the term to the reference to moral behavior in the incident on the Walter Scott.

88. Explain how Twain satirizes Uncle Silas and Aunt Sally through their treatment of Jim?

89. How does Jim react to Tom's elaborate plan?

CHAPTERS 38-43

90. How does Jim react to the rattlesnakes? How does Tom comply to Jim's threats?

91. What animal bites Jim and what does he do with the blood?

92. What happens to the rats under Aunt Sally's bed? How does Aunt Sally feel about them?

93. Where do the garter snakes go after they crawl out of the bag in the boys' bedroom?

94. What does Tom's anonymous letter reveal?

95. What goes wrong with the escape?

96. What does Huck tell the doctor about Tom's bullet wound?

97. What is going on at the Phelps Plantation when Huck gets there?
98. What does Huck mean when he swears that "he wouldn't do nothing to grieve her anymore?" To what situation and person is he referring?
99. What sacrifice is Jim willing to make for Tom and what does this show about Jim?
100. What does Huck mean when he says, "I knowed he was white inside"?
101. How do the men treat Jim, the runaway slave?
102. Who defends Jim to the crowd?
103. What is Huck planning to do at the end of the novel?