

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Reading and Annotation Guide

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**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Twain once described Huckleberry Finn as a book in which “a sound heart and a deformed conscience come into collision & conscience suffers a defeat.” How does Huck Finn’s conscience develop and why does it conflict with his heart?

“Sound heart”= healthy, morally correct soul and instinct

“Deformed conscience”= unhealthy, misshapen sense of morality

Circle one of the following topics to write about.

Chapter 6:

* Huck and Pap’s Politics

(Pap) *Oh, yes, this is a wonderful government, wonderful . . . and yet’s got to set stock still for six whole months before it can take ahold of a prowling, thieving, infernal, white-shirted (etc.)*

Chapter 14:

* Huck and Jim and What Makes a Man

(conversation at the end of the chapter) In this conversation, it is important to emphasize that Jim is trying to reason with a child, Huck. If the narration were from Jim’s point of view, it would likely show the same frustration, with Huck not realizing that Jim is really talking about men, as a man.

Chapter 15:

* Huck and Humility

Jim’s narration before this line is significant.

*Then he got up slow, and walked to the wigwam, and went in there, without saying anything but that. But that was enough. It made me feel so mean I would almost kissed his foot to take it back.*

*It was fifteen minutes before I could work myself up to go and humble myself . . .— but I done it, and I warn’t ever sorry for it afterwards neither.*

Chapter 16:

* Huck and Freedom

*Well, I can tell you, it made me all trembly and feverish, too, to hear him, because I begun to get it through my head that he was most free—and who was to blame for it? Why, me. I couldn’t get that out of my conscience, no how, no way. It got to troubling me so I couldn’t rest; I couldn’t stay still in one place. . . .*.

This chapter hits head on the irony of right and wrong, the questions of freedom and slavery and Huck’s confusion about what he is supposed to do. Here he has to face choices about what he has been taught (conscience) and what he feels is right (heart).

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------Type a one page minimum reflection responding to the following questions.

What is Mark Twain saying about human nature and society?

Look at specific sections of the novel and consider what impact they have on Huck.

a. Do events develop his conscience or do they reinforce his sound heart?

b. Each selection presents a moral dilemma that Huck faces. How does he make his decisions?

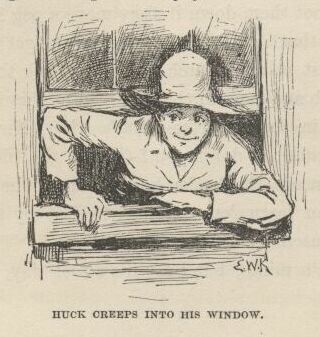
c. Upon what logic, ideal, thoughts, philosophies are his decisions based? When and how are you like or unlike Huck?

d. What decisions do you make based on similar influences?

* Take notes and annotate in the margins to help formulate your response. Use evidence from the text to support your thinking. “…” (Twain number). You will be expected to use at least three citations. See MLA formatting guide at my website (size 12, Times, etc.)
* The reflection is due TWO days after we read that chapter and will be homework.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 1 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

Meet Huck. You probably already know him from a little book called [*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*](http://www.shmoop.com/tom-sawyer/). But it's cool if you don't, because you're about to get to know him really well. Like, you've probably already noticed that he's a kid, and that he doesn't talk too good. He's a rich kid, though. Not long ago, he and Tom found $12,000 in a cave. These days, $12,000 could hardly buy you a used car—but back then, it was a boatload of money. So much money that they gave it all over to the town official, Judge Thatcher, for safe-keeping.

Huck is currently living with the Widow Douglas and her sister Miss Watson near the Mississippi River. These women are trying to "sivilize" Huck, in the no-elbows-on-the-table, prayers-before-supper, doff-your-hat kind of way. Huck takes to this "civilizing" like a cow to the sun on a poppin' hot day in July. We're not sure what that means exactly, but it sounds like something Huck would say. Part of this "civilizing" involves teaching Huck about religion. At first he's all gung-ho to learn about [Moses](http://www.shmoop.com/exodus/moses.html), until he realizes Moses is dead. Huck "[doesn't] take no stock in dead people," so there goes his religious fervor. Miss Watson takes this whole [civilizing process](http://www.amazon.com/Civilizing-Process-Sociogenetic-Psychogenetic-Investigations/dp/0631221611) seriously, though, and she threatens that Huck will go to hell if he doesn't start behaving himself, i.e., sitting up straight at the dinner table. Apparently Hell is full of slouchers. Huck thinks this sounds just fine to him. Heaven sounds awfully boring. Plus, he's pretty sure Tom Sawyer is going straight to hell, and he wants to keep hanging out with his friend.

After dinner, Huck lights a candle in his bedroom. He can't sleep and sits awake listening to the sounds of the woods outside, imagining ghosts and all sorts of spooky things. A spider crawls up Huck's shoulder and he flips it off—straight in to the candle. Oops. This is an "awful bad sign." After performing various good-luck ceremonies to counteract the bad luck that comes from killing a spider, Huck resigns himself to his approaching fate. In fact, he pulls out his pipe for a relaxing smoke. Uh, don't try this at home.

Just after the clock strikes midnight, Huck hears a "me-yow! me-yow!" He meows back softly. Don't worry—Huck isn't talking to a cat. He scrambles out of the window and down a shed and, sure enough, there's Tom waiting for him.

Determine what is important. List the top five things you need to know from Chapter 1:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 2

1. How do the images of darkness and light in the setting establish the mood in chapter two? Be specific as to what the boys are doing, whether they should be doing it, etc.
2. By taking the oath, who do the boys have greater allegiance to? Use the oath as evidence to support your claim.
3. How does Tom make himself the expert? Use specific evidence with major and minor characters to support your claim.
4. What humor is involved in the use of the word “ransom?”
5. Based off your ideas in question 4, what does this say about education in Tom Sawyer’s society?
6. Characterize the role of the boys in “Tom Sawyer’s Gang.”
   1. Tom Sawyer
   2. Joe Harper
   3. Huckleberry Finn
   4. Ben Rogers
   5. Tommy Barnes

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 3 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

Huck gets in trouble for his clothes being dirty. It seems that dirty clothes, like slouching at dinner, are a ticket straight to Hell. But religion isn't really coming through for Huck (as he points out to Miss Watson), since it fails at such important endeavors as getting him fishhooks when he prays for them. What good is prayer if it doesn't get you what you want? Miss Watson counters that Huck should pray for spiritual gifts, like helping other people. Huck doesn't see any advantage in this, so he drops the subject. Next we hear about Huck's father, a.k.a. "Pap," an abusive alcoholic who everyone thinks is dead. Huck isn't so sure, but he really hopes Pap doesn't show up again.

Tom Sawyer's gang gets together and plays cops n' robbers. Huck makes a point of telling us that no one really dies or gets robbed—it's all just in good fun. (Like violent video games, which we know do absolutely no harm to young people.) We see one of their games in particular: Tom gathers them all up in a hurry to report that there's a band of "A-rabs" with chests of treasure coming through town, and that they need to go attack. But the band isn't made up of "A-rabs" so much as townspeople on Sunday School picnic. Bummer. Tom responds that Huck would be able to see the A-rabs, if he'd read [*Don Quixote*](http://www.amazon.com/Don-Quixote-Miguel-Cervantes/dp/0060934344) and knew that their enemy magicians had made the band appear to be a Sunday School picnic. See, there are a bunch of rules about magicians and genies and magic lamps. Huck thinks the whole thing is ridiculous. If he were a genie, he'd never let anyone else tell him what to do. He'd just grant his own wishes. In fact, he rubs a lamp a few days later to see if Tom was right about genies. (He wasn't.)

Determine what is important. List the top five things you need to know from Chapter 3:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 4 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

Against all expectations, Huck's been gettin' sivilized. In other words, he's been going to school and taking regular baths and so on, which for a boy from the woods is a big deal. When he gets too fed up with it all, he runs off to sleep in the woods. One morning, Huck spills some salt at breakfast. But before he can throw it over his shoulder (it's a [superstition thing](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1385380/Why-throw-salt-shoulder-superstitions-answered.html)), Miss Watson stops him and tells him not to be foolish. Huck knows this means that bad luck is coming.

Outside, he sees tracks in the snow. Apparently, someone came up to the garden and then stopped before going inside. Examining one of the tracks, Huck sees a cross in the heel made out of nails—a sign to keep off the devil.

After seeing this, Huck hauls it to Judge Thatcher's as fast as he can, with one eye over his shoulder the whole way. Clearly, he knows something we don't. When he gets to the Judge's, he says he wants to give him all the money (his six-thousand-dollar share of the money found in the cave). The Judge wants to know why, but Huck skirts the issue on the grounds that he doesn't want "to tell no lies." The Judge ponders for a moment and decides that what Huck really wants to do is sell his property over to the Judge; this way the transaction is legal and Huck is safe. This will all make sense soon, don't worry. Huck agrees, signs a document, gets a dollar as pay for all his property, and leaves.

On his way back home, he tells us about Jim and his magic hairball. It's a fortune-telling magic hairball. So Huck goes to Jim to have his fortune read by the magic hairball. He says he saw his Pap's tracks in the snow and now he's scared. Jim drops the hairball on the floor, but sadly, that's not enough to make the thing talk. Clearly, the hairball needs some money. One counterfeit quarter later, the hairball tells Huck (via Jim's interpretation, of course), that his Pap doesn't know what to do. He's got a good angel on one shoulder and a bad one on the other, and it's hard to say who he'll listen to at any given time. Jim rather profoundly observes that sometimes Huck's life will be good and sometimes bad. For example, sometimes he'll be sick, but he'll always get better.

We guess this is the "bad" part, because waiting for Huck in his bedroom is his abusive, drunk Pap.

Determine what is important. List the top five things you need to know from Chapter 4:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 5

1. How does the description of white contrast Clarisse McLellan’s white?
2. What is Twain saying by maki ng white ugly?
3. What is Pap’s issue with “puttin’ on frills” and school?
4. What questions does Pap’s attitude toward Huck evoke?
5. Huck says “They lie—that’s how” (Twain 21). Why does Huck say this?
6. What is significant in the new judge’s treatment of Pap?
7. How does the judges decision represent “a sound heart and deformed conscience come into collision and conscience suffers defeat”? Explain your thinking.

1. The judge says “he reckoned a body could reform the old man with a shotgun, maybe, but he didn’t know no other way” (23). How does this represent the “hypocrisy of civilized society”?
2. What mixed emotions does Huck feel about life with his father?

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 6 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

Until now, Huck wasn't the biggest fan of going to school. But now that his father told him not to, he's a regular teacher's pet. Meanwhile, Pap has started a court case to try to get Huck's 6,000. The trial drags on, and all the time Huck has to keep getting money for his father to avoid beatings. Not that anything really stops him. His father finally kidnaps him and takes him to live on the river in a lovely little shack with all the modern luxury of a swinging door and floorboards.

During his stay, Huck gets regular beatings. He can't run off, because every time Pap leaves he locks Huck inside. But Huck is adaptable, and he gets used to life in the shack by the river. It's not that bad, he says, since he gets to live in the wild as he likes and there's no one around to scold him about manners and spitting and so forth. So everything's great. Except for the beatings and that one time he was locked up for three days straight.

Finally, during one awesome instance of solitary confinement, Huck finds an old wood-saw and goes to work at a slab of wood on the back wall of the cabin. He hides the saw when Pap comes home acting even less pleasant than usual because Judge Thatcher is dragging out the trial as long as possible. He's also worried that the Widow will try to get custody again and win this time, now that he's made an utter idiot of himself about town. Yeah, that sounds like a reasonable thing to be worried about it. Huck may not like being locked up, but he also doesn't want to go back to civilization. He decides to run away just as soon as he can.

That night, Pap gets roaring drunk and comes back home absolutely covered in mud from lying in the gutter.

Determine what is important. List the top three things you need to know from Chapter 6:

1.

2.

3.

Chapter 6 question:

1. What is ironic in Pap’s fury about the educated black?

Chapter 6 summary continued:

Pap continues to drink, fall down, hurt himself, and act the poster child for racism and bigotry. Huck falls asleep and wakes up to see Pap in a [delirious fit](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0001771/), screaming about snakes and the devil. After some more sleeping, crying, and screaming, Pap jumps up and starts chasing Huck around the cabin, calling him the "Angel of Death." When he finally passes out again, Huck picks up the rifle and sits down with it pointed at Pap. You know, just in case he wakes up and tries to murder his son again.

Determine what is important. List one thing you need to know from Chapter 6:

1.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 7 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

Huck falls asleep holding the gun and is woken by his father; he lies and says he was guarding against a robber in the night. Pap, in the midst of one extraordinary hangover, doesn't remember the night before anyway, so it's all good. Outside, Huck sees the river rising and knows it's June. He implies that he's starting to miss town.

As luck would have it, he finds a drift-canoe coming down the river (that is, a canoe with no one in it, for those of you who don't speak Huck). He hides it away for later.

Back at home, Pap gathers up some lumber and takes it to town to sell for money (read: whiskey). While he's gone, Huck gathers up supplies and leaves through the hole he sawed in the back of the cabin. Then he does what every normal boy dreams about at least once in his childhood: he fakes his own death. He beats down the door to the cabin and spreads pig's blood everywhere to make the cabin look like a robbery/murder-scene.

Then it's into the canoe and out on the river in the pitch black darkness. In the nail-biting scene that follows, Huck has to lie down still in his canoe as his father paddles by right next to him. Because of the darkness and also possibly his stupidity, Pap is oblivious to the empty canoe less than six inches from his path.

Once he is out of danger's way, Huck chills out in his canoe, smokes a pipe, looks at the stars, and eavesdrops on the nearby ferry full of men. It's all very picturesque and beautiful. He then paddles out to the uninhabited Jackson's Island, an all-inclusive resort destination in the middle of the river.

Determine what is important. List the top five things you need to know from Chapter 7:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 8 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

When Huck wakes up the next morning, everyone is out on the river searching for his body. They have all these sophisticated technological methods of carcass-location, such as firing a canon and floating bread across the water. The upside is that Huck gets to eat some bread, even if it's a little soggy. He sees the body-searching boat with everyone on it: Pap, Judge Thatcher and his family, Tom Sawyer and his Aunt Polly, etc. They're all talking about his murder.

Huck passes the next three days on Jackson Island, but admits that he's feeling pretty lonesome. As time goes by, Huck senses he's not alone on the island, and by "sense" we mean he finds someone else there. Namely Jim, Miss Watson's slave and the man with the magic hairball.

1. What is the importance of the chapter title, “I Spare Miss Watson’s Jim?”
2. What is implied in Jim’s belief that Huck is a ghost?
3. What is Jim afraid Huck could do? Why is Huck not telling on Jim?
4. Why does Huck use the phrase “Lowdown Abolitionist?”



The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

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Packet #2

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Chapter 14:

* Huck and Jim and What Makes a Man

(conversation at the end of the chapter) In this conversation, it is important to emphasize that Jim is trying to reason with a child, Huck. If the narration were from Jim’s point of view, it would likely show the same frustration, with Huck not realizing that Jim is really talking about men, as a man.

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* Huck and Humility

Jim’s narration before this line is significant.

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Huckleberry Finn Chapter 9 Summary

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Serious issues of slavery and morality aside, Huck is a kid on an island, which means some exploring is clearly in order. He and Jim head toward the middle of an island and find a cavern. After hiding their canoe and supplies, they hide out during a storm and eat dinner. This is actually pretty awesome, and Huck and Jim have a little mutual admiration moment. Things go on this way for a while. Problem is, they can't go out in daylight, lest someone spot them.

One night, the two dudes happen upon a makeshift house floating down the river, which was apparently flooded and dislodged in the storm. They climb in, and Jim finds a dead body. He tells Huck not to look at the man's face, as it's "too gashly." After taking supplies from the house, they head back to Jackson's Island.

1. Predict: Who was the dead man? Explain your thinking.
2. The chapter ends with the quote, “We got home all safe” (Twain 51). What is home?

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 10 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

The next morning, Jim doesn't really want to talk about the dead man on the grounds that it will bring back luck. Of course, Jim had predicted bad luck the day before on account of Huck touching a snakeskin with his hand. And here they are having scored a slew of supplies (and $8) from a dead man's floating house! Bad luck schmad luck, he says. But Jim insists the bad luck is on its way.

Three days later, Huck plays a prank on Jim; he kills a rattlesnake and puts it in Jim's bed to scare him. Unfortunately, the rattlesnake's mate comes and lies down with its dead partner (aw), and then bites Jim when he gets into bed. Yeah, not so much bad luck as, well, Huck being a doofus. Huck feels awful but isn't about to let on that the whole thing is his fault. Still, he follows Jim's detailed instructions to ward off any more bad luck. Jim slugs away at some leftover whiskey to help the pain, and Huck declares he'd rather be bitten by a rattlesnake than drink any of that stuff.

Now we get to the good stuff: Jim decides that Huck should dress up like a girl and go to town to try and find some news. Huck, obviously, thinks this is a great idea. He puts on a dress (part of the supplies he and Jim found in the floating house), paddles in, and comes to the door of a little shanty. Through the window he can see a middle-aged woman sitting alone and knitting—prime bait for his scheme.

Determine what is important. List the top three things you need to know from Chapter 10:

1.

2.

3.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 11 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

Huck comes up with a fun little name and story: he—ahem, she—is Sarah Williams, his/her mother is sick, etc., etc. The woman is a chatty bird and tells "Sarah" all about the big news in town: the murder of Huck Finn. At first, she says, everyone thought Huck's Pap was the man responsible, but then they decided it was Jim, since he ran away on the same night of the murder. There's a reward out for both men: $200 for Pap, who ran away, afraid of getting lynched, and $300 for Jim. But woman is sure that Huck's father will wait for the murder business to die down, come back after about a year, and get Huck's $6,000 cool as you please. Oh, and the hunting party is going to check out Jackson's Island this very night, since she's recently seen smoke coming from that direction. Huck gets all nervous and fidgety. The woman isn't as naïve as she seems, and she asks for the girl's name again. Huck answers: "Mary Williams." Oops. He backtracks quickly and clarifies: Mary is his middle name, so he sometimes goes by that. The woman goes back to talking about herself and her family and her personal problems, and the two of them have some fun throwing lead at the various rats infesting her house. Unfortunately, Huck does an all-around awful job of acting like a girl, and the jig is up. The woman calls him out, saying she knows he is a runaway apprentice. Huck is all, "Aw, shucks, you caught me" and spins another yarn about being mistreated. Still, the women isn't yet satisfied. She asks Huck a series of questions about country life to test his new story. Of course, Huck knows all about cows and horses and so on, so he passes with flying colors. The woman, who finally introduces herself as Mrs. Judith Loftus, tells "George Peters" (Huck's new fake name) that next time he wants to pretend to be a girl, he should thread a needle properly. Good advice, lady. Meanwhile, Huck hauls it back to Jackson's Island and tells Jim that they have to get out.

Determine what is important. List the top three things you need to know from Chapter 11:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 12 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

Huck and Jim raft away down the river, with Missouri on one side and Illinois on the other. They travel at night, tying the raft to the shore and covering it up during the day. Some nights, Huck lands at a nearby town to buy food or occasionally steal a chicken. His father, he says, told him that you might as well steal a chicken whenever you can, because if you don't want it yourself, you can give it away. More good moral lessons from Pap: stealing is really "borrowing," as long as you "intended" on giving it "back" sometime. The widow, on the other hand, correctly identifies this as "stealing." Jim offers a compromise: they should pick three things they won't steal anymore, and everything else will be fine. Great! Now that's settled.

A little later, the pair comes across a wrecked steamship in the middle of a thunderstorm. Huck wants to land and plunder, but Jim has a bad feeling. What if there are watchmen on board? Huck insists. Tom Sawyer wouldn't be scared of a steamboat, he says, so why should they be? Okay, that's evidently a convincing argument. The two both amble on board, only to overhear three robbers, two of them preparing to kill the third man. Eek. Jim skitters off to the raft, but Huck inches closer to the voices to see what's going on. We get some more info: Jake Packard is the man with the gun; he's trying to convince his buddy Bill to kill the third man, Jim Turner. It seems Jake is afraid Jim will "turn state's evidence," i.e., rat them out. Jake has a better idea: instead of shooting Bill, they should plunder the rest of the steamboat and then wait for him to drown when the boat goes under. You know, because this way, they'll have clean consciences. Huck hustles out to Jim and tells him they should hurry and get the sheriff. Great! Unfortunately, the raft has broken loose in the storm and gone off down the river. Uh-oh.

Determine what is important. List the top three things you need to know from Chapter 12:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 13 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

Huck is not too thrilled about being stuck on a sinking ship with three robbers, two of whom have no qualms about murdering their friend. But he determinedly resolves that "it warnt no time to be sentimentering." They make their way down to the far end of the ship and find the robbers' skiff. As the robbers approach, they hide in the darkness and watch Jake and Bill load it up with the stolen supplies.

When the two robbers go back for more, Huck and Jim jump into the skiff and start off down the river, hoping to catch up with their own raft. Everything is great, except that Huck starts to have a moral crisis about leaving the men to die on the sinking steamship. Moral crises always come at super inconvenient times, right?

As soon as they see lights on the shore, they'll stop and send someone back to the ship to help. When they reach the raft, Huck heads for shore in the skiff. He soon comes upon a ferryboat at the outset of a little town and greets the watchman. It's time for Huck, master of deception, to work some magic. Huck breaks down in tears and pretends that his family is stuck on the steamship and in mortal peril. He hams this up quite a bit. The watchman is all, "Great Scott!" He'd loved to help, but he doesn't know who's going to pay for the trouble it will take to go over and rescue these folks. Huck pretends that one of the women stuck on the ferry is the niece of the richest man in town. Apparently the watchman isn't as savvy as Mrs. Judith Loftus, because he takes off to rescue them. Huck knows he should beat it, too, but he feels like he has to stay and make sure the men are okay first. Also, he stops to congratulate himself on being such a good guy. If only the widow could see! But by the time the wreck comes floating toward him on the river, it looks like no one survived. Still, Huck isn't too heavy-hearted over the dead robbers. If they can stand it, he says, so can he.

Determine what is important. List the top three things you need to know from Chapter 13:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 14

1. What is Jim’s attitude toward Solomon?
2. Why is Jim so possessive about family?
3. As a result of Jim’s feelings about family, explain why Jim feels the way he does about Solomon.
4. What is revealed in the conversation about the Frenchmen?

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 15 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

Huck and Jim are headed to [Cairo](http://www.illinoishistory.com/cairoscenes.html), "at the bottom of Illinois, where the Ohio River comes in" (15.1), where they can sell the raft and take a steamboat to Ohio–-one of the free states, where Jim won't be in danger of being sold back into slavery. They figure it'll take about three more days to get there.

When a heavy fog rolls in, Huck goes ahead in the canoe and gets separated from Jim and the raft. Jim whoops to Huck, but in the fog and confusion he still can't make his way back. So he panics for a bit and then just goes to sleep. (Anyone else notice how many times people fall asleep during really important parts of the plot?) The next day the fog has lifted and Huck finds Jim, who has also been sleeping. He lies down on the raft and wakes Jim, pretending that he's been there asleep the whole night and that the fog incident was all a dream.

Determine what is important. List the top two things you need to know from Chapter 15 thus far:

1.

2.



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**Listen to the entire book for free at this website:**

**http://www.loudlit.org/works/hfinn.htm**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Twain once described Huckleberry Finn as a book in which “a sound heart and a deformed conscience come into collision & conscience suffers a defeat.” How does Huck Finn’s conscience develop and why does it conflict with his heart?

“Sound heart”= healthy, morally correct soul and instinct

“Deformed conscience”= unhealthy, misshapen sense of morality

Circle one of the following topics to write about.

Chapter 6:

* Huck and Pap’s Politics

(Pap) *Oh, yes, this is a wonderful government, wonderful . . . and yet’s got to set stock still for six whole months before it can take ahold of a prowling, thieving, infernal, white-shirted (etc.)*

Chapter 14:

* Huck and Jim and What Makes a Man

(conversation at the end of the chapter) In this conversation, it is important to emphasize that Jim is trying to reason with a child, Huck. If the narration were from Jim’s point of view, it would likely show the same frustration, with Huck not realizing that Jim is really talking about men, as a man.

Chapter 15:

* Huck and Humility

Jim’s narration before this line is significant.

*Then he got up slow, and walked to the wigwam, and went in there, without saying anything but that. But that was enough. It made me feel so mean I would almost kissed his foot to take it back.*

*It was fifteen minutes before I could work myself up to go and humble myself . . .— but I done it, and I warn’t ever sorry for it afterwards neither.*

Chapter 16:

* Huck and Freedom

*Well, I can tell you, it made me all trembly and feverish, too, to hear him, because I begun to get it through my head that he was most free—and who was to blame for it? Why, me. I couldn’t get that out of my conscience, no how, no way. It got to troubling me so I couldn’t rest; I couldn’t stay still in one place. . . .*.

This chapter hits head on the irony of right and wrong, the questions of freedom and slavery and Huck’s confusion about what he is supposed to do. Here he has to face choices about what he has been taught (conscience) and what he feels is right (heart).

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------Type a one page minimum reflection responding to the following questions.

What is Mark Twain saying about human nature and society?

Look at specific sections of the novel and consider what impact they have on Huck.

a. Do events develop his conscience or do they reinforce his sound heart?

b. Each selection presents a moral dilemma that Huck faces. How does he make his decisions?

c. Upon what logic, ideal, thoughts, philosophies are his decisions based? When and how are you like or unlike Huck?

d. What decisions do you make based on similar influences?

* Take notes and annotate in the margins to help formulate your response. Use evidence from the text to support your thinking. “…” (Twain number). You will be expected to use at least three citations. See MLA formatting guide at my website (size 12, Times, etc.)

The reflection is due TWO days after we read that chapter and will be homework.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 15

1. What is the significance with Jim’s lecture to Huck?
2. What is Twain saying about Huck by playing this trick? What is Twain saying about Jim?
3. Why the word towhead?
4. What is Twain saying by Jim calling Huck’s lie trash and that he should be ashamed of himself?
5. How does this scene make Huck feel? Why is this significant?
6. How does Huck battle his conscience?

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 16

1. What happens when Huck goes on land versus when Huck stays on the raft?

1. What does the river symbolically represent?
2. What does the raft symbolically represent?

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 17 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

A man calls off the dogs, saving Huck, who introduces himself as “George Jackson.” The man invites “George” into his house, where the hosts express an odd suspicion that Huck is a member of a family called the Shepherdsons. Eventually, Huck’s hosts decide that he is not a Shepherdson. The lady of the house tells Buck, a boy about Huck’s age, to get Huck some dry clothes. Buck says he would have killed a Shepherdson had there been any Shepherdsons present. Buck tells Huck a riddle, but Huck does not understand the concept of riddles. Buck says Huck must stay with him and they will have great fun. Huck, meanwhile, invents an elaborate story to explain how he was orphaned.

Buck’s family, the Grangerfords, offer to let Huck stay with them for as long as he likes. Huck innocently admires the house and its humorously tacky finery, including the work of a deceased daughter, Emmeline, who created unintentionally funny sentimental artwork and poems about people who died. Settling in with the Grangerfords and enjoying their kindness, Huck thinks that “nothing couldn’t be better” than life at the comfortable house.

Determine what is important. List the top three things you need to know from Chapter 17:

1.

2.

3.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 18 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

Huck admires Colonel Grangerford, the master of the house, and his supposed gentility. A warmhearted man, the colonel owns a very large estate with over a hundred slaves. Everyone in the household treats the colonel with great courtesy. The Grangerford children include Bob, the oldest; then Tom; then Charlotte, age twenty-five; Sophia, age twenty; and finally Buck. All of them are beautiful.

One day, Buck tries to shoot a young man named Harney Shepherdson but misses. Huck asks why Buck wanted to kill Harney, and Buck explains that the Grangerfords are in a feud with a neighboring clan of families, the Shepherdsons. No one can remember how or why the feud started, but in the last year, two people have been killed, including a fourteen-year-old Grangerford. The two families attend church together and hold their rifles between their knees as the minister preaches about brotherly love.

After church one day, Sophia Grangerford has Huck retrieve a copy of the Bible from the pews. She is delighted to find inside a note with the words “Half-past two” written on it. Later, Huck’s slave valet leads Huck deep into the swamp and tells Huck he wants to show him some water-moccasins. Huck finds Jim there, much to his surprise. Jim says that he followed Huck to the shore the night they were wrecked but did not dare call out for fear of being caught. Some slaves found the raft, but Jim reclaimed it by threatening the slaves and telling them that it belonged to his white master.

The next day, Huck learns that Sophia Grangerford has run off with Harney Shepherdson. In the woods, Huck finds Buck and a nineteen-year-old Grangerford in a gunfight with the Shepherdsons. Both of the Grangerfords are killed. Deeply disturbed, Huck heads for Jim and the raft, and the two shove off downstream

Determine what is important. List the top five things you need to know from Chapter 18:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 19

1. Why does Twain include such a specific description of setting?
2. Who is responsible for producing “chaw”?
3. How are these white men acquiring “chaw”?
4. What is Twain saying about these white men in this scene?
5. Provide evidence that these men are lazy.
6. Contrast these men with those who grow the tobacco.

Huckleberry Finn Chapter 20-21 Summary

Mark your confusion and annotate your thinking in the margins.

The duke and the dauphin ask whether Jim is a runaway slave. Huck makes up a story about how he was orphaned and tells them that he and Jim have been forced to travel at night since so many people stopped his boat to ask whether Jim was a runaway. That night, the duke and the dauphin take Huck’s and Jim’s beds while Huck and Jim stand watch against a storm.

The next morning, the duke gets the dauphin to agree to put on a performance of Shakespeare in the next town they pass. They reach the town and find that everyone in the town has left for a religious revival meeting in the woods, a lively affair with several thousand people singing and shouting. The dauphin gets up and tells the crowd that he is a former pirate, now reformed by the revival meeting, who will return to the Indian Ocean as a missionary. The crowd joyfully takes up a collection, netting the dauphin more than eighty dollars and many kisses from pretty young women.

Meanwhile, the duke takes over the deserted print office in town and earns nearly ten dollars selling print jobs, subscriptions, and advertisements in the local newspaper. The duke also prints up a “handbill,” or leaflet, offering a reward for Jim’s capture, which will allow them to travel freely by day and tell anyone who inquires that Jim is their captive. Meanwhile, Jim has been innocently trying to get the dauphin to speak French, but the supposed heir to the French throne claims that he has forgotten the language.

Determine what is important. List the top five things you need to know from Chapter 20:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Waking up after a night of drinking, the duke and dauphin practice the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* and the swordfight from *Richard III* on the raft. The duke also works on his recitation of the “To be, or not to be” soliloquy from *Hamlet,* which he doesn’t know well at all, throwing in lines from other parts of *Hamlet* and even some lines from *Macbeth*. To Huck, however, the duke seems to possess a great talent.

Next, the group visits a one-horse town in Arkansas where lazy young men loiter in the streets, arguing over chewing tobacco. Huck gives a detailed, absurd description of the town. The duke posts handbills for the theatrical performance, and Huck witnesses the shooting of a rowdy drunk by a man, Sherburn, whom the drunk has insulted. The shooting takes place in front of the victim’s daughter. A crowd gathers around the dying man and then goes off to lynch Sherburn.

Determine what is important. List the top five things you need to know from Chapter 21:

1.

2.