



English 3B: American Literature and Composition
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Reading Guide Chapters 1-16 (I-XVI)



Chapters 1-4

1. What is ironic about the Widow Douglass telling Huck not to smoke? What might Twain be satirizing?
2. What trick does Tom play on Jim? What is Huck's reaction? What does his reaction suggest about his level of moral development?
3. What does Huck pray for and why? Does he get what he prays for? What conclusion does he reach about praying and religion? What might Twain be satirizing?
4. Summarize the argument that Huck and Tom have regarding the "ambuscade" and genies. What does the argument reveal about Huck's personality? What does it reveal about Tom's personality?
5. Huck is a very superstitious individual. Provide three of his superstitious beliefs. Cite chapter and page numbers.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. Why is Huck superstitious?

7. Provide two examples of Huck's analytical and pragmatic mind. Cite chapter and page numbers.
 - a.
 - b.
8. Provide two examples of Tom's imaginative and romantic mind. Cite chapter and page numbers.
 - a.
 - b.

Chapters 5-7

1. Who shows up in chapter five? Why?
2. What is ironic about the "new" judge's attempts to reform Pap?
3. What is ironic about Pap's "gov'ment" speech? What might Twain be satirizing?
4. Describe Huck's plan to escape Pap's cabin. What does this plan reveal about Huck?
5. Provide three examples of adults sending Huck mixed messages regarding what is right and what is wrong? Cite chapter and page numbers. Overall, what might Twain be satirizing?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Chapters 12-16

1. What is the name of the wrecked steamboat? What might Twain be satirizing with its name?

2. Who is on the wrecked steamboat?

3. Summarize the conversation between Bill and Jake Packard. What do they want to do to Jim Turner? Why?

4. What might Twain be satirizing in this episode?

5. Why does Huck go to see the ferryboat captain?

6. Whom does he pretend to be when he is speaking with the ferryboat captain? Summarize the story Huck tells the ferryboat captain.

7. What does this episode suggest about Huck's personality and level of moral development?

8. What is the ferryboat captain's initial reaction to Huck's request? What makes him change his mind? What might Twain be satirizing in this episode?

9. Describe the trick that Huck plays on Jim in the fog.

10. How does Jim react to Huck's trick?

11. How does Huck respond to Jim's reaction? What does Huck's response suggest about Huck's level of moral development?

12. In chapter 16, whom does Huck encounter, what dilemma does he face, and how does he respond?

13. What does Huck's response to the aforementioned dilemma in chapter 16 suggest about his level of moral development?

14. What might Twain be satirizing in the aforementioned episode that occurs in chapter 16?

15. What happens at the conclusion of chapter 16?