

Literature Guide

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Chapter 1

1. **What point of view is this story told from?** First person. Huck Finn
2. **Who is Huck Finn?** A wayward boy, who is being raised by a kindly woman; he has a large fortune from an incident that happened in *Tom Sawyer*
3. **Who was the Widow Douglas?** Huck's unofficial guardian
4. **What things annoyed Huck about the Widow Douglas?** She made him wear new clothes, rung a bell for supper, insisted that Huck come on time. She prayed before Huck could eat, she cooked things separately, read the Bible and stories about dead people (who are useless), had a rule about no smoking.
5. **Who was Miss Watson?** The Widow Douglas's sister
6. **How did Huck offend Miss Watson?** He said he wanted to go to Hell
7. **What superstition did Huck have regarding the spider?** He killed one accidentally and knew that it would bring him back luck.
8. **How did Huck combat the evil coming his way from the spider's untimely death?** He took off his clothes, turned around 3 times, crossed his breast every time and tied up a lock of hair to keep the witches away.
9. **Who came to Huck's window and convinced him to sneak out?** Tom Sawyer
10. **Why did Huck leave?** He wanted adventure, fewer rules and less structure.

Chapter 2

1. **Why was Huck so itchy?** He and Tom were cornered by Jim. Jim wasn't leaving until whoever was out there came clean. Huck got an itch and could only think about that.
2. **How did the boys manage to get away?** Jim fell asleep.
3. **What trick did Tom play on Jim?** He took his hat off and hung it on the tree. **What did Jim say happen?** The witches bewitched him and put him in a trance and rode him all over the state, then set him under the tree and hung his hat on the limb.
4. **How did Jim explain the \$0.05 piece Tom left for the candles?** It was a charm the devil gave to him that he could use to cure people or fetch the witches
5. **Why were the boys meeting?** To form a band of robbers
6. **What were some of the things the oath of the gang involved?** Never tell any secrets, cut the throat as punishment for telling secrets, then burn the carcass, put a curse on that person. Don't do anything to anyone in the band (if they did, the boy was ordered to kill that person and his family)
7. **What did Huck have to do to get in?** Offer up Miss Watson as someone to kill in the event he broke the oath since he didn't have any family
8. **What was the line of business of the gang?** Stop stages and carriages, kill or ransom the people and take their money and watches
9. **What plan did they have for the women they captured?** Take them to the cave, be polite as pie and then they will fall in love with their captors and never want to go home

Chapter 3

1. **What was Huck's theory regarding prayer according to Miss Watson?** If he prayed every day, he would get whatever he asked for. **What did Miss Watson really mean?** He would receive "spiritual gifts." It would help him to think more of others and less of himself.
2. **Describe the 2 Providences (idea of God's treatment of humans) interpreted by Huck.** Widow Douglas: It would make a body's mouth water. Miss Watson: It would take hold of a person and knock him down again. Which did Huck hope for? The widow's He saw no chance if Miss Watson's got there first.
3. **What did they think happened to Huck's father?** Drowned. **Why weren't they sure?** His face was distorted.
4. **Give an example of Tom's imagination.** A group of Arabs and Spanish had set up camp with 400 soldiers guarding them. They had elephants and treasure. What did it turn out to be? A Sunday school class with donuts and jam. OR The Genie in a tin-lamp who grants wishes.

Chapter 4

1. **Describe another one of Huck's superstitions.** Throw salt over his shoulder to keep off the bad luck.
2. **What "bad luck" did Huck have?** He noticed some footprints and there was a cross in the left boot heel made with big nails to keep off the devil
3. **What did seeing this make him do?** Run to Judge Thatcher's who kept his money. Huck gave all of his money and property to the judge.
4. **Whose tracks did Huck see?** His father's
5. **How did Jim try to help?** By reading Huck's fortune from a hairball. Did it work? Only after Huck paid it with a counterfeit quarter

Chapter 5

1. **Why was Huck afraid of his Father?** He was abusive.
2. **What did Huck's father want?** Huck's money
3. **How did Pap fool the new judge?** He claimed he changed his ways and said he was a new man. The judge was so anxious to believe that he had helped someone, he put him up in his house, gave him new clothes, fed him
4. **Why wasn't Pap able to change just like that?** He was an alcoholic and steeped in sin.

Chapter 6

1. **What happened when Judge Thatcher wouldn't give Huck's father the money?** Pap got really mad, kidnapped Huck, and took him to live in the mountains. They lived off the land and sometimes he left Huck for days locked up
2. **What did Huck think of all this?** He didn't mind it except for the beatings his father gave to him when he was drunk. He preferred not to be civilized and have to go to school
3. **What did Pap's story about the free black man voting reveal about his character?** He is racist and very proud.
4. **What was happening during the snake episode?** He was hallucinating, probably from drinking too much.

Chapter 7

1. **What fortune appeared on the river?** An empty canoe. **What did Huck plan to use it for?** Hide it then use it to escape
2. **How was Huck able to escape?** He sawed a hole in the cabin, then made it look like a robbery. He shot a pig and used its blood to look like a murder
3. **Where did he go?** To Jackson's Island
4. **What does this scheme reveal about Huck?** He is resourceful, crafty, quick thinking, and dishonest.

Chapter 8

1. **What was the big "boom"?** They were shooting the cannon looking for Huck's body
2. **Who else was on the island?** Jim (Miss Watson's slave). **Why?** He ran off. He overheard her telling someone she was going to sell him down South.
3. **What do we know about Jim's character?** He is superstitious and a bit of a simpleton

Chapter 9

1. **What purpose did the cavern serve?** As a shelter from the storm, a place to set their traps, a hide out
2. **What did they find floating down the river?** A frame house with a dead man inside
3. **What did they do with the house?** Pillaged it
4. **What were some of the things they took?** Tin lantern, knife, candles, cup, quilt, sewing paraphernalia, hatchet, medicine, a wooden leg

Chapter 10

1. **Why didn't Jim want to talk about the dead man?** He said it was bad luck. He would come and haunt them.
2. **What good luck did they not expect?** Eight dollars and all the "truck". **Why did they not expect the good luck?** Because Huck touched a snake skin the day before.
3. **What was the bad luck they received?** Jim was bit by a rattlesnake.
4. **How was Huck able to go to town?** Dressed up like a girl

Chapter 11

1. **According to the woman, who killed Huck?** Jim or Huck's dad. **Why did they think Huck's dad did it?** Because he wanted Huck's money without having to go through a lawsuit
2. **Where did she think Jim was?** On Jackson's Island. **Why?** She saw smoke there
3. **What plan did she tell Huck of?** Her husband and a friend were going to the island that night
4. **What lie did Huck tell her?** That he was an orphan and worked for a farmer who treated him bad. He ran away.
5. **What advice did she give him?** How to act more like a girl
6. **What did Huck do when he got back on the island?** He roused Jim and then the two set off

Chapter 12

1. **Where did Huck and Jim go?** To St. Louis by boat
2. **What did Huck want to do to the shipwrecked ferry boat?** Go aboard and plunder it

3. **What did they stumble across once on board?** A band of robbers already on board, getting ready to leave one of their own to drown.
4. **What did Huck propose?** Find a way to turn them all into the sheriff.
5. **What happened that stopped Huck's plan?** Their raft had broken loose.

Chapter 13

1. **How did Jim and Huck escape?** They stole the robbers boat.
2. **What was Huck's plan regarding the robbers?** Go down to the next boat and make up a story.

Chapter 14

1. **What story did Jim use to point out that Solomon wasn't a wise king?** The story of cutting the baby in 2
2. **How did Jim justify Solomon's advice to cut the baby in 2?** For people who only have 1 or 2 kids, they value them a lot. For Solomon, he had so many kids on account of having so many wives. So it was no big deal cutting one of them in two.
3. **How did Huck refer to the son of Louis XVI?** The dolphin. **What should it be?** The Dauphin

Chapter 15

1. **Where were Huck and Jim headed?** To the free states
2. **What trouble did they run into on the second night?** Fog, they were separated from each other.
3. **How did Huck confuse Jim?** By pretending the fog and separation never happened. He said it was all a dream.
4. **What made Jim realize Huck was lying?** The trash on the raft and the fact that it was beaten up.
5. **What lesson did Huck learn?** Mean tricks make others feel bad

Paper Ideas

1. Discuss some of the superstitions that the characters held. How did these hinder them.
2. Contrast Huck's time with his father to that with the widow. How was he able to adapt to each situation.
3. How does Huck use Tom Sawyer to justify his behavior?
4. Write a character sketch of Huck Finn.

Chapter 16

1. **Why was Cairo so important to Huck and Jim?** It meant freedom for Jim
2. **What bothered Huck?** That he was to blame for Jim's freedom. He didn't say anything to Miss Watson, and she had been kind (in a way) to him
3. **What was Jim's plan for his freedom?** Save up enough money to buy his wife. Then buy his two children or get someone to steal them
4. **What was Huck's plan to ease his conscience?** Row to shore and turn Jim in
5. **What made him change his mind?** Jim told him Huck was the only white man who had kept his promise.

6. **How did Huck's quick thinking save Jim from the slave catchers?** He lied and said his father was sick. The way he acted led the men to believe he had small pox.
7. **What was the result of Huck's lie?** The men gave him \$40 and Jim escaped yet again
8. **What bad luck did they attribute to the snake skin?** Not finding Cairo, losing their canoe, steamboat smashing their raft

Chapter 17

1. **Describe the family that Huck happened upon?** Father and mother, slave Betsy, two teenage girls, Buck (same age as Huck). They were in a family feud with the Shepherdson family. They lived in a nice house.
2. **Who was Emmeline Grangerford?** Their daughter who died at 15. She was a painter and a poet.

Chapter 18

1. **What was the feud between the Shepherdsons and Grangerfords about?** No one knew.
2. **What manifested because of the feud?** Whenever the two families had a chance, they shot each other.
3. **What did Miss Sophia want Huck to do?** Go to the church and fetch her Testament
4. **What was inside?** A paper that said "half past 2"
5. **What did Huck's slave lead him to?** Jim
6. **What news did Jim have?** He was hiding and being helped by some other slaves, he managed to salvage the raft.
7. **What happened to Miss Sophia?** She ran off to marry Harry Shepherdson.
8. **What happened as a result?** The feud started again. Buck, his father, 2 brothers, and cousin were all killed.
9. **What became of Huck and Jim?** They jumped onto the raft and struck out. Huck thought the family would think he was dead.

Chapter 19

1. **Why did the two men ask Huck for help?** They were both being run out of town for conning the people.
2. **Who did each claim to be?** The Duke of Bridgewater and the Dauphin King Louis 17th of France
3. **What did Huck think?** They were both frauds, but Huck was willing to let them have their way as long as it kept peace on the raft.

Chapter 20

1. **What explanation did Huck give for having to travel only at night?** His Pa, brother (4 years old), Jim, and Huck were traveling on the river and got hit by a steamboat. Pa and his brother drowned. Everyone kept trying to take Jim away from Huck saying he was a runaway. So they traveled at night not to cause any trouble.
2. **How did the Duke and King con the people in the little town they stopped at?** King went to the prayer meeting, told everyone he was a pirate and had been robbed, said he was a changed man. They took up a collection of \$87 for him. Duke got some people to take out ads in his paper and paid him cash \$9.

3. **What was the Duke's plan for running in the day light?** Use a wanted/reward poster for Jim. Tie him up when people asked and pretend they were taking him back South.

Chapter 21

1. **What were the king and Duke practicing for?** *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*
2. **Where did they perform their Shakespearean Revival?** A little town in Arkansas that was having a circus
3. **What excitement did Huck see in town?** A man named Sherburn shot and killed a man named Boggs who was drunk and acting crazy

Chapter 22

1. **How did Sherburn escape being lynched?** He stood on his roof, stared the crowd down, and called them all cowards. They slunk away and did nothing to him
2. **What were some of the things that entertained Huck at the circus?** Dancing ladies, clowns, the "drunk" horseback rider
3. **How did the Shakespeare show go?** Only 12 people came, everyone left before the end, people laughed the entire time (though it was not a comedy)

Chapter 23

1. **What show did they try next?** Slapstick comedy
2. **Why were the patrons angry?** It was a very short show.
3. **What did they do on the final night of the show?** The people were ready to throw rotten eggs, cabbages, and dead cats, but the King, Duke, and Huck snuck away first
4. **How did Huck justify the Duke and King's behavior when Jim questioned it?** Citing history, Huck pointed out that most kings acted in similar ways and even quite worse. Why do you think he did this?

Chapter 24

1. **What plan did the Duke come up with for Jim so that he wouldn't have to lie tied up in the raft while they conned the town?** He dressed him up in a disguise, painted his face and gave him a sign which said "Sick Arab - but harmless when not out of his head".
2. **What plan did the King come up with for conning the people at the next town?** Pretend he was Harvey Wilkes and the Duke was William Wilkes. They were there to see Peter Wilkes's fortune which he had hidden.
3. **How did Huck feel about this?** He was ashamed

Chapter 25

1. **How did their plan to impersonate Harvey and William go?** Very well. The girls believed them.
2. **What did they do to ensure the girls and everyone else wouldn't think they were frauds?** Gave them all the money, not the half that was stipulated in the letter
3. **Who didn't believe their story?** The doctor. **Why?** Their English accent was poor. Their Greek/Hebrew definitions were non-sense.
4. **How did the girls respond to this accusation?** They gave all the money to the king and ignored the doctor.

Chapter 26

1. **Describe the conversation between Huck and Joanne.** She wanted to know about England. He made up a bunch of stuff. She called him out on it. He made up more stuff.
2. **Why did Huck have qualms about what the King and Duke were doing?** He liked the girls and didn't think they should steal their money.
3. **What was Huck's plan?** Steal the money. Hide it. Write a letter to Mary Anne telling her that they were frauds and where the money was hidden.

Chapter 27

1. **Where did Huck hide the money bag?** In the coffin
2. **What happened during the funeral?** A dog began to make a lot of ruckus. **Why?** It saw a rat.
3. **What was the King's plan for the girls?** To take them with him.
4. **What did Huck get the Duke and King to believe about the money?** The slaves snuck into their room and took it.

Chapter 28

1. **What was Mary Anne so upset about?** The slaves weren't sold together as a family
2. **What did Huck decide about telling the truth in this case?** It was better and actually safer than telling a lie.
3. **What did Huck tell her?** The truth about her "uncles"
4. **What plan did he have?** Mary Ann would go to Mr. Lothrop's around 9-9:30. He would come back and put a candle in the window. She would wait until 11 then if Huck wasn't there, that meant he was safe and Mary Ann should spread the word to turn in the Duke and King.
5. **After Huck's vow to tell the truth, what lie did he tell?** Mary Jane went to visit the Proctors and Hanner had the mumps. Mary Jane sat up with her all night
6. **What huge surprise happened at the end of the chapter?** The rightful heirs showed up.

Chapter 29

1. **How did the Duke and King respond to the heirs showing up?** They pretended like the newcomers were the frauds
2. **What evidence did the King use?** The brother broke his arm and they lost their luggage so they couldn't prove who they were
3. **What observation did the doctor make about Huck's honesty?** That he wasn't used to lying. He was awkward about it.
4. **How did the lawyer attempt to prove who were the real Wilkses?** Each write a line or two and compare it to the letters. **What did this prove?** The king and duke weren't the rightful heirs. **Why did it not prove the others were?** The old gentleman claimed no one could read his hand except his brother who always copied his letters for him. Unfortunately, he could not write because of his broken arm.
5. **What did the new Old Gentleman use next to prove the relationship?** A tattoo on the deceased's left breast.
6. **How were they to settle this dispute?** Dig up the body to check

7. **What happened once they opened the coffin?** They found the gold and Huck escaped.

Chapter 30

1. **What happened once Huck boarded the raft?** The king and duke had also escaped and also got on board.
2. **What did they quarrel about?** Who hid the money in the coffin, only to come back and dig it up later.
3. **How did the argument stop?** The king said he hid the money there.

Paper Ideas

1. Give examples of when Huck's conscience gets in the way of his plans.
2. Describe the evolution of Huck's feelings about the Duke and King.
3. Write a character sketch of Jim.

Chapter 31

1. **How did Huck plan to escape from the Duke and King?** He left them in the middle of one of their con artist tricks in Pikesville. What foiled his plan? Jim was gone. What happened to Jim? The King and Duke turned him in for \$40.
2. **What realization did Huck come to about lying?** He wanted to repent but was unable to give it up.
3. **What was Huck's plan for getting Jim back?** Go into town, find out where Jim was, and go from there.
4. **Who was the first person he ran into?** The Duke. **What was his story?** They did indeed sell Jim for \$40 which had already been spent on liquor by the King. **What did the Duke accuse Huck of?** Trying to run off and leave them stranded. **How did Huck respond?** He said that he thought they had left him.

Chapter 32

1. **What happened at the plantation?** They mistook Huck for Tom Sawyer
2. **Who was Tom going to see?** Aunt Sally and Uncle Silas
3. **What made Huck nervous?** The real Tom would show up on the boat. So he had to go down to the dock and find Tom.

Chapter 33

1. **When Tom first saw Huck, what did he think?** He was a ghost come back to haunt him.
2. **What did Tom agree to help Huck that really surprised him?** To help Jim. **Why was this a big surprise?** Because everyone in the South believed that helping a slave was a terrible thing.
3. **Who did Tom claim to be?** Sid Sawyer
4. **What was the fate of the Duke and King?** Tar and feathers

Chapter 34

1. **Where was Jim?** In a hut by the ash-hopper
2. **What was the main difference between Huck's and Tom's plans to help Jim escape?** Tom's was much more complicated and daring.

3. **What happened when they walked into the hut with the slave that was to feed Jim?** He yelled out “Huck!” and “Misto’ Tom”
4. **How did they convince the slave that Jim didn’t know them?** They pretended that Jim didn’t say anything
5. **How did the slave further justify the situation?** Blamed it on the witches that were always haunting him

Chapter 35

1. **How did Huck propose to get Jim’s chain off?** Life up the bed.
2. **How did Tom propose to do it?** Saw the bed leg in 2, swallow the sawdust, put some dirt and grease around the sawed place OR saw Jim’s leg off
3. **Name some of the outlandish things Tom suggested as part of Jim’s escape.** A rope ladder made of sheets, journal on a sheet, pen from a candlestick, blood for ink

Chapter 36

1. **How were they going to get Jim out?** Dig him out with case knives
2. **What stopped them?** Blistered hands, took too much time, not enough progress
3. **What did they use that worked?** A pick and shovel but they still called it case knives
4. **How did they send stuff into Jim that would aid his escape?** Through his food (he almost broke off his teeth), Aunt Sally and Uncle Silas
5. **How did Tom propose to get rid of the witches that haunt Nat?** By making witch pie

Chapter 37

1. **What was Aunt Sally so vexed about at breakfast?** She couldn’t find Uncle Silas’s extra shirt, a spoon, 6 candles, a candlestick, and a sheet
2. **What did she blame the disappearances on?** The cow and rats
3. **How did they go about confusing Sally and Silas in order to get the things they needed?** Put a sheet on the line, stole one from the closet. Took a spoon put one back. Covered up all the rat holes.
4. **What troubles did they have with the pie?** The crust kept falling in. The rope wouldn’t fit in the pan.

Chapter 38

1. **What did Tom insist Jim must leave behind?** His coat of arms and inscription. **What was Jim supposed to carve his coat of arms on?** A rock
2. **What kind of animals did Tom want Jim to have?** Spiders, rattlesnakes (garter snakes with buttons tied on their tails), rats. **Why?** Because prisoners always have something that they take and make friends with
3. **Why do you think everyone goes along with Tom’s crazy ideas?** Tom is stubborn. He speaks with authority and conviction.
4. **How did Tom propose Jim could raise a plant?** In the corner, give it the name Pitchiola and use his tears to water it.

Chapter 39

1. **How did rats get into Aunt Sally’s room?** Huck and Tom used a trap to catch some from one of the rat holes they stopped up. They hid it under her bed for safe keeping. One of the kids opened the door of the trap.

2. **How did the snakes end up all over the house?** The boys caught them and put them into a bag in their room
3. **Why did they boys get a stomach ache?** They ate the sawdust from the bed leg.
4. **Why did Huck have to dress up in the servant girl's frock?** To deliver an "nonamous" letter

Chapter 40

1. **What effect did the letter have?** Sally and Silas were really nervous. They gathered 15 farmers all with guns to deal with the "gang".
2. **Why was Huck sent into the sitting room?** He was caught coming up from the cellar and Aunt Sally thought he was up to something.
3. **How was he able to get away?** He hid the bread and butter under his cap. Sally saw it sliding down his face and thought his brains were coming out. She realized it was the butter and sent him to bed.
4. **What happened in the aftermath of the escape?** Tom was shot in the calf. Jim was free but very proud of Tom and Huck for the plan. Huck went for a doctor.

Chapter 41

1. **Why was the doctor suspicious of Huck's story?** He likely knew what had happened the night before.
2. **Why did Sister Hotchkiss think Jim was crazy?** Because of all the things found in the cabin: the grindstone, the rag ladder, the shirt with blood
3. **How did they think the escape was managed?** They had no idea since Sally, Silas, Sid and Tom were always on the look out
4. **What was Huck's story about why they weren't locked in the room?** They were woken up by the shots, climbed down the lightning-rod, chased after the lot, tried to look for the runaway in the canoe, tired out and went to sleep
5. **Where was Tom?** No one knew (except Huck who wasn't telling)

Chapter 42

1. **Who showed up at breakfast?** Tom on a mattress, the doctor, Jim in Sally's dress
2. **What did they do to Jim?** Took him back to the cabin and chained him up
3. **How did they doctor help Jim's case?** He described how devoted he was to Tom and what a good man he was
4. **When Tom woke up, what did he confess?** How he and Huck helped Jim escape - everything
5. **How did Aunt Sally take it?** She was furious.
6. **What did Tom tell Sally about Jim once he learned Jim was confined again?** Miss Watson had died and set Jim free in her will. **Why was this ironic?** Because Tom had planned an elaborate plan for escape.
7. **Who showed up to spill the rest of the story?** Aunt Polly

Chapter the Last

1. **What became of Jim?** He was set free. They gave him lots of food for his help with Tom. Tom gave him \$40.
2. **What had became of Huck's father?** He had fled. Jim had found him in the house floating down the river but didn't want to tell Huck

3. **What happened to Huck's money?** It was all still there.
4. **What happened to Huck?** Aunt Sally wanted to adopt him.

Paper Ideas

1. Huck thinks very highly of Tom Sawyer. Give examples to support this.
2. Slavery is an intrinsic evil. Give examples from the book to support this.
3. Discuss how Huck grows as a person; what life lessons does he learn from his encounters on the river?
4. Select five characters that Twain does not admire in Huck Finn. Name and describe the specific traits that each possesses that makes him or her not an admirable person.