

**AP English III
Summer Reading Assignment**

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

**By
Mark Twain**

The Historical Context of the Novel

Huckleberry Finn is set in the pre-Civil War years, forty to fifty years before its publication in 1885. This is the era when steamboat traffic was at its peak, and it is of course also the slave era. As a runaway slave, Jim was not really safe anywhere in the United States, but he would have been safer in the North than the South. According to Illinois law at the time, a black without freedom papers was liable to arrest, so going overland through Illinois would have been risky. The plan to go up the Ohio thus made sense, but Jim really would have had to get to Canada via the Underground Railroad in order to be absolutely safe.

Questions

Chapters 1-3

- 1. What doesn't Huck like about the Widow Douglas?**
- 2. What does Jim think has happened to him as a result of the trick that Tom plays on him?**
- 3. How does Huck know that the drowned body that is found is not his Pap?**
- 4. When Tom's gang raids the "Spanish merchants and rich Arabs" what is it that they actually do?**
- 5. Where does Miss Watson take Huck to pray?**

Chapters 4-7

- 1. How does Huck know that his father has returned?**
- 2. What does Huck do with his money?**
- 3. Why do the Widow Douglas and Judge Thatcher fail in their petition to become Huck's guardians?**
- 4. Where does Huck's father take him?**
- 5. How does Huck escape from his father?**

Chapters 8-11

- 1. Why has Jim run away from Miss Watson?**
- 2. What does Jim discover in the house that is floating down the river?**
- 3. What prank does Huck play on Jim, and how does it backfire?**
- 4. What does Huck learn about Jim from his visit to Mrs. Loftus?**
- 5. How does Mrs. Loftus figure out that Huck is not a girl?**

Chapters 12-14

- 1. How do Huck and Jim avoid being seen while they are floating down the river?**
- 2. Whom do Huck and Jim discover on the wrecked steamboat?**
- 3. Why can't Huck and Jim escape from the boat?**
- 4. What happens to the steamboat?**
- 5. Where does Huck get his information about dukes and kings?**

Chapters 15-16

- 1. What is Huck and Jim's plan to reach safe territory?**
- 2. What is Jim doing when Huck rejoins him after they are lost in the fog?**
- 3. What is Jim's response to Huck's trick?**
- 4. How does Huck convince the men looking for runaway slaves not to search the raft?**
- 5. How do Huck and Jim know that they have passed Cairo?**

Chapters 17-18

- 1. After Huck forgets his name, how does he trick Buck into revealing it?**
- 2. What theme was Emmeline Grangerford most interested in?**
- 3. How does Huck rediscover Jim?**
- 4. What happened to the raft?**
- 5. Why does Huck feel responsible for the carnage following Sophia's elopement?**

Chapters 19-20

- 1. What theory does Jim come up with regarding the origin of the stars?**
- 2. How does Huck meet the men who later identify themselves as the duke and the king?**

3. What had the duke and the king been doing before they met Huck?
4. How does the king dupe the people at the camp meeting?
5. How does the duke arrange for them to float by day?

Chapters 21-23

1. What kind of show do the king and duke plan first?
2. What does Sherburn do to Boggs?
3. How is the first performance by the duke and king received?
4. What is the people's response to the "Royal Nonesuch"?
5. What does Jim tell Huck about his daughter Elizabeth?

Chapters 24-26

1. What arrangement does the duke make so that Jim doesn't have to be tied up all day?
2. How does the king learn about the Wilks family?
3. Why is the king worried that the gold is \$415 short?
4. Why does Dr. Robinson think that the king is a fraud?
5. What makes Huck determined to steal the gold back from the duke and king?

Chapters 27-29

1. Where does Huck hide the money?
2. What causes the disturbance during the funeral?
3. Who does Huck blame for stealing the duke and king's money?
4. Why does Himes claim that the duke and king are frauds?
5. What is Levi Bell's plan for deciding who the real Harvey and William Wilks are?

Chapters 30-32

1. Who does the duke think hid the money in the coffin?
2. How do the duke and the king prosper in the days following their escape?
3. Who sells Jim out?
4. Briefly describe the Phelps farm.
5. Who does Mrs. Phelps think Huck is?

Chapters 33-35

1. What does Tom think Huck is at first?
2. Describe how Tom shocks Aunt Sally.

- 3. Who does Tom pretend to be?**
- 4. Explain how Tom figures out where Jim is.**
- 5. How do Huck and Tom overcome the difficulty that they can't take thirty-seven years to free Jim?**

Chapters 36-39

- 1. What do Huck and Tom use for light while they are digging?**
- 2. Describe what Tom does when he can't climb the lightning rod.**
- 3. Who does Aunt Sally blame for the missing shirt?**
- 4. What does Tom want Jim to water his plant with?**
- 5. What effect do the warnings have on the family?**

Chapters 40-43

- 1. What effect has the last warning letter had on the Phelpses?**
- 2. How does Tom get hurt?**
- 3. Why doesn't Huck sneak out at night to visit Tom?**
- 4. Who clarifies the identities of Tom and Huck?**
- 5. What has happened to Huck's father?**