

## ***Huck Finn* Discussion**

For your journal assignment due before each quiz, you can choose to complete the traditional study guide questions or write a half page open ended response. You can even come up with your own “thought question.” Responses should be about a half page. These will be checked off before each quiz. (Please include the question so I know what I’m grading.)

### **Discussion Chapters 1-7 for quiz on \_\_\_\_\_**

- Summarize Huck’s review of the end of Tom Sawyer’s story.
- Who is actually more irritating to Huck than the Widow Douglas? Why?
- Are the boys serious in their organization of a band of robbers and murderers?
- What is Huck’s purpose in killing the pig and leaving the bloody ax?

#### Journal Question #

- Contrast Huck’s character with Tom’s. What are the good points of each. What are the bad points? If you could choose one as a friend, which would you choose and why? **Or . . .**
- Contrast the Widow Douglas’s and Pap’s ways of life, and what Huck thinks of each. What is Twain trying to say about religion?
- Twain brings up “superstition.” What does he feel about this?

### **Discussion Chapters 8-18 for quiz on \_\_\_\_\_**

- Why has Jim run away and why is he afraid of Huck Finn when he first sees him on Johnson’s Island?
- What two important things does the river float down to Jim and Huck on the island?
- What is “one of the carelesst and foolishst things a body can do?”
- What are the rumors in town about Huck’s disappearance?
- How does the woman react to Huck after she finds out he isn’t a she?
- Why do Bill and Jake want to kill Jim Turner?
- Why does Huck bother with making sure the robbers are rescued?
- How do Jim and Huck become separated? What trick does Huck play on Jim?
- What are Jim’s long term goals?
- What does Huck learn from the Grangerford episode?

#### Journal Question #2

- Taking a character in from the novel, identify a dilemma or difficult choice the character must make, identify alternatives, evaluate the alternatives and tell me what decision you would make. **Or ...**
- Why is Huck reluctant to save Jim? Why does he finally decide to save Jim? What would the people of Huck’s town think of Huck if they found out what he did? What do you think of Huck? **Or . . .**
- How do we see examples of Huck’s street smarts? **Or ...**
- How does Twain use the river as a symbol?

### **Discussion Questions 19-24 for quiz on \_\_\_\_\_**

- How does Huck convince the men that Jim is not a runaway slave?
- How are the Duke and the King clever at making money?

- What is Twain trying to say with the Sherburn/Boggs story?
- What happened in Jim's past that has caused him so much mourning?
- What is Jim's frequent kindness to Huck?
- How does Huck explain to Jim why these kings are "rascallions"?
- What information does the young fellow tell them about the Wilkes?

Journal Question #3

- How does Twain show one powerful man is stronger than any mob? **Or ...**
- In writing a humorous book, why does Twain have a narrator who has no sense of humor? **Or...**
- Using specific examples, prove that Twain wanted to emphasize the differences between the freedom of the raft and the restrictions of society on the shore.

**Discussion Questions 25-31 for quiz on \_\_\_\_\_**

- What happened with the King and the Duke and the money in the cellar?
- Why do you suppose no one believes the doctor?
- What about the American funeral tradition does Twain satirize?
- Describe the three Wilks girls.
- What upsets the girls in the settling of the estate?
- What saves Huck from being accused by the King and Duke of stealing the money?
- How had Jim been captured and what was the King's part in it?
- How has Huck's concern changed for Jim—compare his departure from Jim while staying at the Grangerfords and his departure while at the Phelps (he goes to look for Jim at the Phelps).

Journal Question #4

- Why does Huck put himself in danger to help the Wilks girls? **Or...**
- If the purpose of the trip down the Mississippi is to gain freedom for Jim, why do they continue deeper and deeper into slave territory? **Or...**
- What is significant about the line, "All right, then, I'll go to hell." Why is this line ironic?

**Discussion 32-43 for quiz on \_\_\_\_\_**

- How is Huck almost trapped into telling Aunt Sally that he isn't who she thinks he is?
- What happens to the King and Duke?
- What does Tom think is wrong with Huck's plan for helping Jim escape?
- Compare Huck's conscience with Tom's in the matter of Jim's escape.
- What is ironic about the escape plans and actions concerning Jim?
- Why does Aunt Polly decide to visit?

Journal Question #5

- Because he knew that Jim was already freed in Miss Watson's will, Tom knew that he could not be breaking the law. How does this change what you think of Tom? **Or ...**
- Huck has been accused of knowing more than a fourteen-year-old boy could possibly know. Do you agree or is it a subtle flaw of the novel? **Or ...**
- Why do you think many people feel this is a racist novel?

19-25

How does Twain use the calm qualities of the river as a contrast?

They understand society's weaknesses: ignorance, gullibility, desire for the forbidden, sympathy, emotionalism

Why doesn't he tell the King and duke the truth about Jim? They're out to make money—of course they're going to sell him—Huck also has knowledge of human nature

How does Twain show the stupidity of people during this time with the king and duke?

Average person allows these rogues to function

--historically parts of young women were still played by young boys, but here Juliet is played by a 70 year old man

--goes to a revival meeting, pretends to reform, gets a collection and flees with the money

audience likes to hear about evil—ladies and children not welcome

--fractured

Twain doesn't like lazy people with run down houses

Mob mentality and then how one powerful man is stronger than any mob

What does Twain think about alcohol? Most have to be drunk to be brave or turn cruel because they are drunk

What's the point of the story of Jim and his daughter? A contrast to how Huck's father treated him? Huck's important recognition on page 130

26-31