

AP English Language and Composition: Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: During the summer break, you are to read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. Please note: you do not need to submit these questions; they are merely guiding you through each set of chapters. Upon our return to school, we will have several writing assignments pertaining to this novel, along with a test.

Chapters 1-5:

1. What evidence is presented to establish Huck as a youth rather than a child?
2. In what ways is Huck different from the other boys in the gang?
3. Describe how Huck Finn changes his opinion of Tom Sawyer as these chapters develop.
4. Explain the significance of the woods to Huck's life.
5. Speculate why Huck gives all of his money to Judge Thatcher.
6. How do these chapters depict Jim as Huck's confidante? Why is this relationship so successful?

Chapters 6-10:

1. What is ironic about Pap holding Huck against his will?
2. How does Twain begin to question the morality of slavery in these chapters?
3. What satire about religion does Huck offer in this chapter?
4. Explain the significance of the Mississippi River in the story thus far.
5. In what way does Jim assume a father-like role to Huck?
6. How does Huck's view of superstition evolve?

Chapters 11-15:

1. What theme is Twain developing when Huck chooses not to turn Jim in for the reward money?
2. What do the events in these chapters suggest about Huck's personal development?
3. Why is the end of Chapter 15 a turning point for Huck and Jim's friendship?

Chapters 16-20:

1. What internal conflict is developed in Chapter 16?
2. How does Huck's moral conflict reach a climax in Chapter 16?
3. Describe how Buck Grangerford could be a foil to Huck Finn.
4. What function does the character of Emmeline Grangerford serve?
5. What is ironic about the Grangerfords and Sheperdsons attending church?
6. Contrast Jim's reactions to the duke and king with Huck's.
7. How does Twain use weather in Chapter 20 to emphasize the mood and rising action of a conflict?

Chapters 21-25:

1. What is ironic about Huck not understanding the stunt with the drunken horseman at the circus?
2. What effect does Twain create through the story of Jim's deaf daughter?
3. What epiphany does Huck have in Chapter 23 that advances his inner conflict?
4. How does Huck's opinion of the king and duke contrast with his previous opinions?
5. What does the king's conversation on the steamboat in Chapter 24 foreshadow?
6. What is the primary source of suspense in Chapter 25?

Chapters 26-30:

1. How does Twain continue to question the morality of slavery in these chapters?
2. How does chapter 28 illustrate growth on Huck's part?
3. How do Huck's emotions range during the course of Chapter 29?

Chapters 31-35:

1. What does the king and duke selling Jim signify? How does this event advance Huck's moral conflict? What is the outcome of this conflict?
2. How does the setting contribute to the mood at the beginning of Chapter 32?
3. What is ironic about Tom Sawyer's agreeing to help Huck free Jim?
4. Using evidence from Chapter 34, contrast Tom and Huck's ideas of social morality. How does this difference contribute to the characterization of these two?
5. How does Twain add complications to the plot by having the boys accept Tom's plan rather than Huck's?

Chapters 36-40:

1. What evidence does Chapter 36 provide that the plan to release Jim is little more than a game to Tom?
2. Analyze the change in Huck's character with the re-entry of Tom Sawyer into the story.
3. Compare and contrast the character of Nat to Jim.
4. Analyze the relationship between Tom Sawyer and Jim.
5. Explain Jim's willingness to go along with Tom's foolishness.
6. How has the entire episode of attempting to free Jim contributed to Twain's theme of moral ambiguity?
7. What startling revelation does Huck come to regarding Jim in Chapter 40?

Chapters 41-43:

1. How does Twain create sympathy for Aunt Sally in these chapters?
2. How does Twain continue to develop Huck's character as a thoughtful, caring person?
3. Why did Jim keep the dead man's identity as a secret from Huck?
4. Throughout the entire novel, the river represents peace, happiness and freedom. The towns represent rules, boredom and sometimes cruelty and treachery. In the last paragraph of the novel, which does Huck say is preferable? What is Twain's purpose for this?
5. What is Twain's purpose in revealing that Jim has been a free man through almost the entire timespan of the novel?