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Huckleberry Finn

18 Chapters

Day 1-18

W25-W30

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: Out of the Widow's House

Huck Finn was a boy of about thirteen who lived in the small town of St. Petersburg, on the banks of the Mississippi River. After finding a pile of money with his friend Tom Sawyer, Huck had been taken in by the Widow Douglas, a kind lady who wished to "sivilize" him. She made him wear clean clothes, go to school, and say grace before meals, and he found it all very tiresome. Her sister, Miss Watson, scolded him for his bad habits. Huck missed his old life of sleeping in barrels and fishing at dawn. Then, one night, a shadow appeared in his room: his father, Pap, a drunk and disreputable man, whom he had not seen for a year. Pap had heard about Huck's money and wanted it for himself. From Huck's perspective, the danger was clear. When the court refused to give Pap the boy, he seized Huck, took him across the river, and locked him in a rough cabin in the woods. It was essential for Huck to find a way out. The consequence of staying could be terrible, for Pap was harsh and quick to anger. Huck ran away from his father. He began to plan how he could get free, and he thought of the river as his road. The Widow's house had a big clock that ticked loudly in the hall, and the starched collar scratched his neck. At night, Huck sometimes climbed out of the window and sat on the roof of the woodshed, listening to the owl and the distant bark of dogs, thinking that there must be a better way to live. ★ **Huck ran away from his father.**

THINK *Where did Huck live?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 2: The Cabin in the Woods

Pap kept Huck in the cabin for weeks. The room was dark and dirty, and the door was locked from the outside whenever Pap went away. When he returned, he often drank and shouted. He cursed the Widow, the court, and the law, and he grumbled that a boy should not learn to read. Sometimes he beat Huck when he was in a temper. Huck learned to hide and to be quiet. During the day he fished in the nearby river and stole a few moments for himself. He watched the logs and canoes go by and dreamed of leaving. Huck thought carefully about the consequence of staying, and about how much longer he could bear it. From his perspective, he had no legitimate way to escape, because the court had sided with his father and the town would not interfere. If he ran off, Pap would hunt for him. Huck escaped his violent father to find freedom. One morning, after the river had risen and a canoe floated by, Huck pulled it into the bushes. He knew that an idea was growing, one that would make people believe he was gone for good. It was a significant moment: he would take his life into his own hands, and he would find a way to establish a life of his own. Sometimes Pap would stagger out the door and leave Huck alone for days. On those days Huck explored the woods, set lines in the river, and thought about the big world beyond it. He kept a small knife hidden in his shirt and counted the days in his mind. ★ **Huck escaped his violent father to find freedom.**

THINK What did Pap do when he returned to the cabin?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: A Dead Boy on the River

Huck knew that to escape for good he would have to make Pap and the whole town think he was gone. While Pap was away one day, he sawed a hole in the cabin wall, dragged out a few supplies, and carried them to the canoe. He shot a wild pig and let its blood run on the floor, left a few hairs and a sack of stones to make a trail to the river, and made the cabin look as if robbers had broken in and a boy had been carried off. Then he pushed the canoe out onto the water and lay in the bottom until dark, drifting down to Jackson's Island. Huck escaped from his cruel and violent father, faking his own death to win the freedom that society had no intention of giving him through any legal or legitimate means. He was not proud of tricking everyone, but he felt it was necessary. From his perspective, the town would never have helped him. Huck would establish a hidden camp in the trees of the island and live on fish, berries, and the rest of what he had. The consequence of his plan, he guessed, would be some sad faces in the village. It was a significant gamble, and it was essential to stay out of sight. By the time the sun came up on the second morning, he was far from the village, and for the first time in months he was truly alone and at peace. ★ Huck escaped from his cruel and violent father, faking his own death to win the freedom that society had no intention of giving him through any legal or legitimate means.

THINK Where did Huck drift?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 4: A Man on the Island

For several days, Huck lived happily on Jackson's Island. He fished, napped in the shade, and watched the great river roll by. One evening, he saw smoke from another campfire. Creeping closer, he found a man sleeping beside it, wrapped in a blanket. It was Jim, Miss Watson's enslaved man, whom Huck knew well. Jim was frightened at first and thought he was seeing a ghost, since he had heard that Huck was dead. When Huck explained, Jim told his own story. He had overheard Miss Watson talking of selling him to a trader in New Orleans, away from his wife and two children. Rather than be taken away, he had run off that night. Huck promised not to tell. From that moment, Huck traveled with an escaped slave named Jim, and together they would try to reach the free states. From Huck's perspective, they were just two people looking for freedom. Slavery was an unjust system of the time, and the consequence for Jim, if he was caught, would be severe. Both boys and men on the river could contribute help or harm. Huck and Jim agreed to establish a camp on the island and plan their journey. The friendship that began that night would become the heart of the story. Huck told Jim about his own plans, and Jim looked at him with wide eyes and said that this was the cleverest thing he ever heard. They laughed quietly, for the first time in days, and shared a supper of fried catfish. Huck found that it was pleasant not to be alone on the island. ★ **Huck traveled with an escaped slave named Jim.**

THINK Who did Huck find sleeping by a campfire?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: Down the Mississippi

A few days later, a great storm broke over the island, and the river began to rise. Huck and Jim sheltered in a cave on a hill. The next morning, they saw a whole wooden house floating by, and a raft of logs drifting after it. They pulled the logs together, built a sturdy raft, and loaded it with their supplies. Inside the house they found a few useful things, and Jim kept one thing hidden from Huck for a long time. When news came that men were searching the island for the runaway, they decided it was time to leave. That night they pushed the raft out onto the moonlit water. Huck and Jim floated down the Mississippi together, and the river carried them for days past forests, villages, and steamboats. They hid by day under the trees and traveled by night, so that no one would see them. From Huck's perspective, life on the raft was the best he had ever known: no school, no rules, only sky, stars, and the gentle sound of the water. They hoped to reach Cairo, where the Ohio River met the Mississippi, and there turn north to the free states. To establish a safe routine, they took turns keeping watch. Huck found it hard to sleep that night, listening to the rain and the creak of the logs, but he felt strangely content. When the first light came, the river looked like a long silver road, and the two travelers drifted into it, eager and a little afraid. ★ Huck and Jim floated down the Mississippi together.

THINK What did Huck and Jim build?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 6: Friends on the Raft

As the days passed, Huck and Jim talked of everything. Jim told Huck about the signs of weather, about his dreams, and about his wife and children. When he spoke of his little daughter, tears came to his eyes. Huck listened and began to see Jim not as a runaway whom the law said was property, but as a man who loved his family as deeply as anyone. They shared their fish and their corn bread, and each took a turn at the oar. In the evenings, Huck would lie on his back and look at the stars while Jim hummed. On the quiet river, the lessons that Huck had learned in the Widow's parlor seemed far away. Huck and Jim floated down the Mississippi together, and what began as a shared escape gradually became a genuine friendship that challenged everything Huck had been taught to believe. From Huck's perspective, Jim was kind, wise, and brave. The challenge for him was to put aside what society had told him. Each man would contribute to the other's survival, and they would establish a trust that nothing could break. It was a significant change in a boy who had been told all his life that such a friendship was wrong. At night, Jim told Huck that the stars had been made, or perhaps had simply laid themselves out, and the two argued gently about it until they fell asleep.

★ Huck and Jim floated down the Mississippi together, and what began as a shared escape gradually became a genuine friendship that challenged everything Huck had been taught to believe.

THINK What did Jim talk about with tears in his eyes?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: The Fog and the Apology

One night, as they neared Cairo, a thick fog fell upon the river. Huck took the canoe to tie a rope to a tree, but the current swept the raft away, and he lost sight of Jim in the white mist. For hours he floated alone, shouting, his voice swallowed by the fog. At last he found the raft at dawn, and Jim asleep on it, covered with leaves and bits of wood. Huck decided to play a trick. He woke Jim and pretended that nothing had happened, that the fog and the separation had been a dream. Jim was confused and then grateful to see Huck alive, but when Huck pointed to the leaves on the deck, Jim understood. His face fell. He said quietly that he had been sick with worry for Huck and had wept over him, and that Huck had made a fool of him. Huck was ashamed. He knew he should not have hurt a friend. For the first time, he humbled himself and apologized to Jim, a thing no white boy of his time would have done. Huck struggled to decide what was right. From his perspective, a friend's pain was essential to respect. He did not know the consequence of this simple apology, but it would contribute to a very significant change in his heart. He did not know how to put the feeling into words, but he knew that the words he had said were true. ★ Huck struggled to decide what was right.

THINK What fell over the river?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 8: Torn Between Two Voices

After the fog, Huck's mind was troubled. He remembered all he had been taught: that helping a runaway was a sin, that a good boy must obey the law, and that Miss Watson had a right to her property. Yet he had come to know Jim as a real friend. At night he lay awake, arguing with himself. His conscience told him that he was doing wrong, and the thought of Miss Watson made him feel low. He tried to think of reasons to turn Jim in, but each time he remembered how Jim had cared for him, shielded him in the storm, and called him the best friend he had. Huck felt torn between society's rules and his own heart. When they stopped at a town, Jim hid on the raft while Huck went ashore. Two men with guns stopped him and asked if the man on the raft was white or not. Huck, without knowing why, lied to them and said the man was his sick father. They kept away. He felt a strange mix of guilt and relief. From his perspective, the right thing was no longer clear. The consequence of helping Jim could be punishment, yet his heart pulled him forward. It was an essential moment, and he began to establish an inner law of his own. He prayed once, but the words would not come, and he gave it up. The stars wheeled slowly overhead while the raft turned in the current, and Huck stared at them with an unsettled mind, wishing someone could tell him the right answer. ★ **Huck felt torn between society's rules and his own heart.**

THINK *What did the two men with guns ask?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: A Good Person

The river carried them on. Huck thought often of the choice he faced. Every time he told himself that he must go ashore and tell the authorities, something in him refused. In the evening, Jim would talk happily of freedom: he would earn money to buy his wife, and then they would save for the children. Huck felt his heart grow heavy. He knew in his head that the law said Jim was property, but in his heart he knew that Jim was a good man who deserved to be free. The conflict grew stronger with each mile. Huck felt deeply torn between the society's rules that told him to turn Jim in and his own heart that told him Jim was his friend and a good person who deserved freedom. His conscience would not let him rest. From his perspective, no school or church had taught him anything so true as what Jim had shown him on the river. The consequence of obeying either side would carry sorrow, and it was essential to choose with honesty. He had never been asked to think about such things. The challenge was to decide for himself. He did not yet know what he would do, but he knew he would not betray Jim lightly, and he would establish his choice in action. ★ Huck felt deeply torn between the society's rules that told him to turn Jim in and his own heart that told him Jim was his friend and a good person who deserved freedom.

THINK What did Jim plan to do with money?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 10: The Duke and the King

One afternoon, two men came running along the bank, begging for a ride. One was about seventy, bald, with a gray beard; the other was about thirty, wearing a tattered coat. They said they were hunted by an angry crowd. Huck felt sorry for them and let them climb aboard. The younger man announced that he was the lost Duke of Bridgewater, and the older man declared that he was the true King of France, the "Lost Dauphin." Huck knew at once that they were frauds, but he kept his mouth shut, because he wanted peace. Jim and Huck had to wait on them, and the two con men took over the best parts of the raft. In the villages along the river, they performed shows, sold fake cures, and tricked farmers out of their savings. Two con men tricked everyone they met. They knew how to exploit the hopes of simple people, speaking in grand words and putting on airs. From Huck's perspective, it was a lesson in how easily people believe anyone who sounds confident. The consequence was that many families lost money. It was essential to learn to question the powerful, and a significant challenge to resist the pull of attractive stories. The men would contribute nothing but trouble, yet they would establish themselves on the raft. The Duke wrote out playbills in a fine hand, and the King practiced his speeches, waving a handkerchief and sighing. Huck watched them from the corner of the raft, thinking how strange it was that grown men would live by such tricks. Jim shook his head and said that he had seen enough of such men to last a lifetime. ★ **Two con men tricked everyone they met.**

THINK *Who did the two men claim to be?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 11: The Royal Nonesuch

In the next town, the Duke and the King put up a poster for a theater show called "The Royal Nonesuch." The first night, a crowd of men paid fifty cents each to see it. The show was very short and foolish, and when the audience realized that they had been cheated, they were angry. But the men did not want to admit they were fooled, so on the second night they told their friends the show was wonderful, so that others would be tricked as well. The Duke and the King took the money and slipped away before a third night. Two dishonest men joined them and created chaos. The pair then discovered that a rich man named Peter Wilks had died in another town, leaving a fortune to his nieces. The King decided to pretend to be Wilks's brother from England. They went ashore and exploited the family's grief. No one checked their story for any verification; they accepted the stranger's claims because he spoke with confidence. From Huck's perspective, it was cruel. The consequence of their lie might ruin the three girls, and Huck wondered whether he could do anything about it. It was a significant moral challenge. He was determined to contribute, and he decided he must establish the truth. The audience shouted and stamped as the curtain rose and fell, but when the actor came out in nothing but paint and a silly tail, the men stared in silence. Afterward, the Duke counted the coins with a smirk and divided them equally with the King. ★ Two dishonest men joined them and created chaos.

THINK What was the show called?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 12: Easily Deceived

The Duke and the King put on a great show of mourning. They sobbed at the funeral, praised the dead man, and took a bag of gold that was meant for the nieces. Huck watched them with disgust. The three sisters, Mary Jane, Susan, and Joanna, trusted the strangers completely, and the town praised the "kind uncles." Huck could not stand to see the girls cheated. At night he stole the gold from the King's room and hid it in the coffin. When the real brothers arrived the next day, the town was thrown into confusion. Each side claimed to be the real family. A tailor and a doctor asked many questions, but the King spoke with such authority that many people believed him. At last the crowd demanded that the coffin be opened, and the gold was found. In the confusion, Huck slipped away to the raft, and the Duke and the King followed, running. They had exploited every person they met. Two dishonest con men joined their journey and exploited every person they encountered, revealing how easily people can be deceived by those who appear confident and speak with authority. From Huck's perspective, the lesson was clear. The consequence was a bitter taste, but the girls got their money. It was essential to question confident speakers. ★ **Two dishonest con men joined their journey and exploited every person they encountered, revealing how easily people can be deceived by those who appear confident and speak with authority.**

THINK Who were the three sisters?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 13: Jim Is Sold

Back on the raft, Huck and Jim hoped they were free of the con men. But the Duke and the King were still with them, and soon trouble came. At the next small town, while Huck was away, the King sold Jim to a farmer for forty dollars and ran off with the money. When Huck returned, the raft was empty. A boy told him that a runaway had been captured and taken to a farm owned by a man named Silas Phelps. Huck sat down in the woods and thought. He remembered all the lessons about what good boys do. He wrote a letter to Miss Watson telling her where Jim was, and for a moment he felt clean and light. Then he thought of the nights on the raft, of Jim's gentle voice, and the care Jim had always shown. His conscience would not let him sleep. At last he tore up the letter. "All right, then," he said to himself, "I'll go to hell," and he made up his mind to free Jim. Huck decided to save Jim from slavery. From his perspective, it was the only right thing to do, no matter what people said. The consequence might be disgrace, but his heart was settled. It was a significant, essential turning point, and he would establish a plan. He walked down to the river and sat on a log, kicking his heels in the mud. ★ Huck decided to save Jim from slavery.

THINK How much did the King sell Jim for?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 14: The Phelps Farm

Huck walked to the Phelps farm, a pleasant place with a house, a barn, and fields of corn. As he came near, a woman ran out and hugged him, calling him by another boy's name. It was Aunt Sally Phelps, Tom Sawyer's aunt, who had mistaken him for her nephew Tom, whom she expected. Huck decided to play along until he could learn where Jim was held. He soon found that Jim was locked in a small hut behind the house. As Huck walked toward the road to think, he met a boy on the way. It was the real Tom Sawyer, who had come to visit. Huck told Tom everything. To Huck's surprise, Tom agreed to help, and he soon came up with a grand plan. Huck had made the bravest decision of his life. He had decided to do what he thought was right, even if it brought shame, and he had brought the idea to a friend who would contribute his cleverness. From Huck's perspective, the greatest challenge was to free Jim without being caught. The consequence of failure would be punishment for all. It was essential to be careful. Tom, however, wanted adventure, so he planned an elaborate rescue with tunnels, rope ladders, and secret messages. Aunt Sally fed him a large dinner of cornbread, ham, and buttermilk, and Uncle Silas, a mild old man, welcomed him warmly. Huck had to pretend to be someone else while his heart ached for Jim, and he waited anxiously for the right moment to meet his friend.

★ **Huck made the bravest decision of his life.**

THINK *Who did Aunt Sally mistake Huck for?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 15: Choosing a Friend

For several days Huck and Tom prepared the escape. Tom insisted on doing it "by the book," with a ladder made of sheets, a coat of arms scratched on a stone, and a long, dramatic letter. Huck thought it was silly but went along. The Phelps family, meanwhile, grew puzzled by the strange noises and the missing sheets. At last, one night, Huck and Tom rescued Jim. As they ran, Tom was hurt in the leg by a stray shot, though he said it was nothing. Jim, seeing Tom in pain, refused to go on and stayed to help the doctor. The authorities took Jim back to his hut. It was only then that Tom told the truth: Miss Watson had died two months earlier, and in her will she had freed Jim. Tom had known all along. When he discovered that Jim had been sold back into slavery, Huck made the bravest decision of his life, choosing his friend over the rules of a society whose moral foundations he had come to question. From Huck's perspective, Jim's freedom was the only thing that mattered. The consequence of the whole adventure was that Jim was a free man at last. It was a significant act, and an essential one, and each friend had contributed in his own way. ★ When he discovered that Jim had been sold back into slavery, Huck made the bravest decision of his life, choosing his friend over the rules of a society whose moral foundations he had come to question.

THINK What did Tom use in the escape?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 16: Aunt Sally's Offer

After the adventure, the Phelps farm was calm again. Jim was free and went home to find his family. Tom recovered from his wound, and he proudly showed off the bullet that the doctor had taken out. Jim also told Huck privately that Pap would never trouble him again. Huck was relieved. Aunt Sally was very fond of Huck and told him that she would adopt him and "sivilize" him. She planned to give him a bedroom, new clothes, regular schooling, and a church to attend. Huck looked at her kind face and his heart sank. He had left the Widow Douglas to be free, and now another good woman wanted to confine him. From Huck's perspective, freedom was a thing that no one could give him. He had found it on the river with Jim, and he had no wish to lose it. Huck chose freedom over civilization. The consequence of accepting would be another life of rules he could not follow. It was a significant decision for a boy who had never had a home. He needed to establish his own sense of what was right, and he would not accept a life he did not want. He sat on the porch step that evening, listening to the crickets, and thought about the Territory he had heard about from travelers. He remembered how the river had looked at sunrise and how sweet the air had smelled on the raft. The more he thought of it, the stronger the wish became.

★ **Huck chose freedom over civilization.**

THINK *Who wanted to adopt Huck?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 17: Lighting Out

Huck thought for a long time about what Aunt Sally had offered. She was kind, and he did not want to hurt her feelings. Yet he knew that his heart could not bear a life of schoolbooks, tight collars, and long prayers. He remembered the widow's parlor and how he had felt shut in. He remembered the river, the breeze, the stars, and the quiet raft. Huck decided to leave society behind again. He would go west to the Territory, where there were open spaces and no one to tell him how to live. From Huck's perspective, a person could only be free if he lived according to his own conscience. The consequence of staying would be a loss of what he valued. It was essential to be honest with himself. He felt a little sad about leaving his friends, for they had been good to him in their way. But he was no longer afraid. Jim had taught him that a person's worth had nothing to do with skin or class, and Tom had taught him that adventures could be fun. The challenge ahead was to make his own way. Huck packed a bundle, said a quiet goodbye, and set his face toward the new land. He stood at the door for a long time, looking at the sunset over the fields, and the evening wind whispered through the corn as if to say that the road was open. His friend Jim would be free, his friend Tom would be safe, and he would go on. ★ Huck decided to leave society behind again.

THINK *Where did Huck plan to go?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 18: True Freedom

In the last pages of the book, Huck says that he is ready to move on. He writes that Aunt Sally has said she will adopt him and civilize him, but that he cannot stand it, for he has been there before. In so few words, a boy who had begun the story as a restless child had grown into a thoughtful young person with a mind of his own. He had learned to see Jim as a friend and a human being. He had learned that rules, when they are cruel, can be questioned. He had learned to trust his own conscience even when it went against everything that society told him. Huck decided to leave civilization behind again rather than be adopted and educated into a society whose values he could no longer accept, suggesting that true freedom sometimes means rejecting what everyone else calls normal. From his perspective, this was no cowardly escape, but a courageous search for a life that was honest. The consequence of his decision was an uncertain future, but he would face it with a clear heart. It was essential, he thought, to follow what he believed, and a significant part of growing up is to establish your own values. Many readers still admire him for that. The book ends with a short, honest line: he says that he has been there before, and he is going to light out for the Territory. It is a simple sentence, but it holds a whole way of looking at the world: a person may sometimes find the truth far from the places where others expect to find it. Many readers feel that the open road in Huck's last words is the real answer to the question that runs through the whole story. ★ Huck decided to leave civilization behind again rather than be adopted and educated into a society whose values he could no longer accept, suggesting that true freedom sometimes means rejecting what everyone else calls normal.

THINK What had Huck learned to trust?