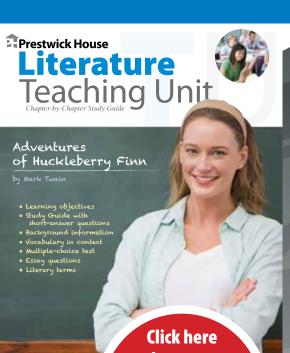


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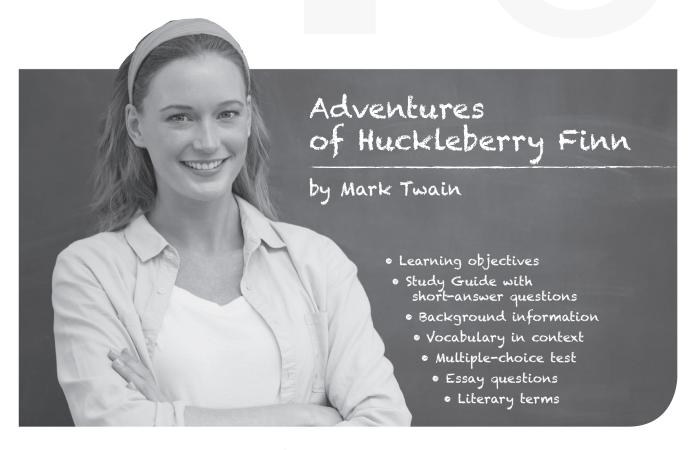
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Item No: 300032

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn TEACHING UNIT

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

- 1. understand the literal events in the story and enjoy the comic adventures
- 2. read selected passages of dialect aloud and understand their meaning
- 3. define "irony" and point to at least five examples from the novel that illustrate this definition
- 4. discuss the development of the following major themes in the novel:
 - Huck's growth and understanding of his world
 - Man's inhumanity to man
 - Individual beliefs that are in conflict with the laws vs. expectations of one's culture
 - The restrictions on one's freedom in a town, as opposed to the freedom to live outside of civilization
 - The cruelty/oppression of slavery and the dehumanizing of black people by the white nine-teenth-century culture
- 5. discuss the elements in this novel that make it one of the most important works in American literature
- 6. note and discuss the following objects of Twain's satire:
 - Sentimentality (being influenced more by emotion than reason) and gullibility (being easily tricked, cheated, or fooled)
 - The average man
 - Traditional concepts of religion
 - Romantic literature with its mournful subject matter in poetry and in ridiculous plots in novels
 - A code of honor that results in needless bloodshed

2 OBJECTIVES

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn TEACHING UNIT

Questions for Essay and Discussion

- 1. Explain why this novel is sometimes seen as a "rite of passage" story. Consider how Huck is at the beginning, what ordeals he undergoes, and how he seems at the end.
- 2. Define the term "irony" and cite four examples from the novel that support your definition.
- 3. By citing incidents from the novel, demonstrate that a major theme is "man's inhumanity to man."
- 4. Trace the development of Huck's troubled conscience. What is his problem, and how does he finally resolve it?
- 5. Explain why Huck decides to "light out for the territory" rather than stay with Aunt Sally, who wants to "sivilize" him.
- 6. Prove the following thesis by citing passages or incidents from the novel:
 - On the river, Huck finds peace and freedom. When on land, he has to deal with human gullibility, greed, corruption, and cruelty.
- 7. In what ways is Jim a less-developed character at the beginning and at the end of the novel than he is in the middle?
- 8. List as many points of contrast as you can between Tom and Huck.
- 9. Why do you suppose Ernest Hemingway said that all modern American literature began with *Huckleberry Finn?*
- 10. A work of literary art is frequently described as a book that has something important to say and says it with great artistry. What important comments on the human experience does this book make?
- 11. Identify passages from the novel in which Twain satirizes the average man, human gullibility, and romantic literature.
- 12. How has Huck's view of slavery, and of Jim in particular, changed over the course of their adventures?
- 13. What does the Mississippi River symbolize?

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Chapter I

Vocabulary

commenced – startedkin – a relationmiddling – moderatelyvictuals – food

_	r what?
_	
W	Why does Twain purposely misspell the word "civilize" in the second paragraph?
Ir	Huck's mind, what does being civilized involve?
	frequently used technique of Twain's is irony. What is ironic about Huck's joinin awyer's band of robbers?
	frequently used technique of Twain's is irony. What is ironic about Huck's joinin awyer's band of robbers?

Chapter III

Vocabulary

ingots – molded metal pieces, possibly bricks of gold
 lath – thin strips of wood
 ornery – common; contrary
 resigned – quit

	two views of religions (Providence) does Huck get?
How	is Twain's point of view expressed, and how is it different from Huck's view
Why	does Huck believe that the body that is found is not that of his father?
Vhat	impression does Huck give the reader of his father?
Vhat	comparison is made in the last line of the chapter?

Chapter X

Vocabulary

	notion – an idea
	Why does Jim feel so strongly about <i>not</i> talking about the dead man?
	What bad luck happens to them? Why is it Huck's fault?
-	
	What is humorous about the digression Huck gives on "looking at the new moon over your left shoulder"?
	As the chapter ends, where does Huck go and why?

Chapter XXI

Vocabulary

blackguarding – insulting; talking badly about
bodkin – a dagger
bray – to make a sound like a donkey
illustrious – outstanding; famous
imperative – pressing; important and necessary
soliloquy – a dramatic monologue

At first, t that seen	he town loafers seem to be lazy but good-hearted men. What do they do, howns cruel?
How do	the townspeople describe Boggs? What happens to Boggs?

Chapter XXXII

Vocabulary

aground – onto the shorewaylay – lie in wait for

When anyon	n Huck makes up a story about a boiler on a steamboat blowing up, he is as ne was hurt. What attitude of the people does Twain attack with Huck's answer
Expla	in the fortunate coincidence that enables Huck to continue his masquerade.