



Colorado Book Club Resource

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN BY MARK TWAIN

1. Why does Twain warn us not to analyze the story?
2. Why did Twain write in dialect? Did you like or dislike reading in dialect?
3. If you've read *Tom Sawyer*, how is Huck's story similar or different? Did reading *Tom Sawyer* or not matter to your reading of *Huck Finn*?
4. In what ways is the novel a satire of society?
5. How are Tom and Huck similar/different? How are Jim and Huck similar/different?
6. What role does superstition play in the story?
7. When Huck finds out that searchers are headed to Jackson Island to search for Jim, he doesn't hesitate to return to Jim. He says, "they are after us!" when really, the searchers are after Jim. Why does he, too, flee down the river?
8. What do we learn about Huck after the episode of the wreck? What do we learn about Jim?
9. Grangerford and Shephersons: Why does Twain include this violent episode?
10. The Duke and the King: Who are they? Why are they on the river? Why do they stay with Huck? Why does Huck stay with them?
11. How does the tone of the novel change when Tom reappears in it?
12. Jim's escape from the Phelps' farm is a farce. Why did Twain write it as such?
13. To help Jim escape, Tom wants to do things the way they've always been done, even if tradition doesn't make logical sense. How were other characters in the novel similar?
14. Huck Finn is a thirteen-year-old boy. Why does Twain use a child as the center of consciousness in this book?
15. Consider the role of lying in the book. Why is there so much lying? Is this an "immoral" book?
16. Consider the role of family units. Huck and Widow Douglass/Miss Watson; Huck and Pap; Huck and Jim; the Grangerfords; etc.



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17. Discuss the place of morality in *Huckleberry Finn*. In the world of the novel, where do moral values come from? The community? The family? The church? One's experiences? Which of these potential sources does Twain privilege over the others? Which does he mock, or describe disapprovingly?

Discussion questions provided by ClassicReadingGroup.com



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