The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn  Review

Characters

Huckleberry Finn                Judge Thatcher       Bill Turner
Tom Sawyer                    Pap                    Jake Packard
Jim                            Judith Loftus        Jim Hornback
Aunt Polly                    Jim Turner            Miss Watson
Widow Douglas                 George Jackson        Buck Grangerford
Sophia Grangerford            Emmeline Grangerford Stephen Dowling Bots
Colonel Grangerford           Harney Shepherdson    Joe Grangerford
Duke                          King                   Hank
Bill                          Boggs                  Colonel Sherburn
Buck Harkness                 Sick Arab             Alexander Blodgett
Peter Wilks                   Harvey Wilks          William Wilks
Mary Jane                     Susan                  Joanna
Doc Robinson                  Levi Bell              Undertaker
Mr. Lothrop                   Tim Collins            Hines
Silas Phelps                  Sally Phelps           Nat
Abram G. Foster               doctor (not named)    Sid Sawyer
Matilda Angelina Araminta PhelpsvsDoctors
Thomas Franklin Benjamin Jefferson Alexander Phelps

Locations & Items

St. Petersburg                Jackson Island   the Walter Scott Cairo
Booth’s Landing               Spanish Island   Royal Nonesuch Sheffield
Pikesville                    Parkville

Questions

1. Why is it ironic that the townspeople do not believe Doc Robinson and Levi Bell? What kind of irony is this (situational, dramatic, or verbal)?

2. Describe the differences between life on the river and life on the land. How could this be a metaphor for life away from society and life within society?

3. How does Mark Twain view humanity? Consider topics like religion, education, goodness, honesty, hypocrisy, etc. Use examples from the text to support your answer.

4. Huck Finn is considered a true American hero because of many of his qualities such as: resourcefulness, freedom from materialism, daring, modesty, having common sense, sensitivity to others, etc. Explain, using specific examples, events in the novel that show some of these qualities.
5. Throughout the novel Jim changes from a stereotypical black man of the time to, as Neilson says in the afterward, a “wise, courageous, unselfish, loyal, resourceful, practical, and ...believable” character. Explain Jim’s change using at least 3 specific examples to support Neilson’s description of him.

6. Huck’s moral development is a predominant part of the novel. Huck’s experiences on the river with Jim allows him to begin to build his own moral compass or guide. Explain three (3) specific situations involving Jim that show Huck has become or is becoming a moral person.

Quotations (Identify the speaker and explain the importance of the quotation)

1. “I don’t take no stock in dead people.”

2. “They belong to whoever rubs the lamp or ring, and they’ve got to do whatever he says...You don’t seem to know anything, somehow--perfect saphead.”

3. “En what use is a half a chile?...de ‘spute ‘bout a whole chile..en dey ain’ no sense in sich doin’s as dat.”

4. “Next Sunday we all went to church, about three mile...The men took their guns along, so did Buck, and kept them between their knees or stood them handy against the wall.”

5. “I found Jim had been trying to get him to talk French, so he could hear what it was like; but he said he had been in this country so long, and had so much trouble, he’d forgot it.”

6. “The idea of you lynching anybody! It’s amusing...The average man’s a coward.”

7. “Then he turns around, blubbering, and makes a lot of idiotic signs to the duke on his hands, and blamed if he didn’t drop a carpet-bag and bust out a-crying...It was enough to make a body ashamed of the human race.”

8. “It don’t make no difference what he said--that ain’t the thing. The thing is for you to treat him kind, and not be saying things to make him remember he ain’t in his own country and amongst his own folks.”

9. “Preacher be hanged, he’s a fraud and a liar. He was up at the Pint that mornin’. I live up there, don’t I? Well I was up there. I see him there. He came in a canoe, along with Tim Collins and a boy...Why yonder he is, now.”

10. “’All right, then, I’ll go to hell’--and tore it up...because as long as I was in, and in for good, I might as well go the whole hog.”
11. “...there’s Jim chained by one leg, with a ten-foot chain, to the leg of his bed: why, all you got to do is to lift up the bedstead and slip off the chain...nobody to watch [Jim]...Why, drat it, Huck...you got to invent *all* the difficulties.”

12. “For the land’s sake, what is the matter with the child? He’s got the brain-fever as shore as you’re born, and they’re oozing out.”

13. “...I says I got to have *help* somehow; and the minute I says it out crawls this nigger from somewheres and says he’ll help, and he done it...and yet he was risking his freedom to do it...”

14. “...I reckon I got to light out for the territory ahead of the rest, because Aunt Sally she’s going to adopt me and sivilize me, and I can’t stand it. I been there before.”