

Teacher Guide

Grades 9–12

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain

NOVEL UNITS[®]

NEW WAYS TO TEACH READING,
WRITING, & CRITICAL THINKING



Novel Units® Single-Classroom User Agreement for Non-Reproducible Material

With the purchase of electronic materials (such as ebooks and print-on-demand teaching activities) from a Novel Units, Inc. (Novel Units) Web site, or that of a Novel Units authorized dealer's Web site, the customer (the purchaser or person for whom this product was purchased) is granted a single-classroom user license, which entitles the customer to use these materials for a single classroom (or home) only.

Sharing the digital files or reproduction of any part of this publication in any way or by any means for additional classrooms (or homes), an entire school, or a school system; by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers; or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Reproduction of any part of this Teacher Guide is strictly prohibited.

Use of the materials for anything other than classroom instruction is a violation of Novel Units intellectual property rights. Novel Units retains full intellectual property rights on all proprietary products, and these rights extend to electronic editions of print books or materials, excerpts of print books or materials, and individual teaching activities offered for sale in digital format.

To obtain more information, or, if you would like to use Novel Units products for additional purposes not outlined in the single-classroom license (described above), please contact customercare@ecslearningsystems.com.

ebooks.ecslearningsystems.com

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

by
Mark Twain

Teacher Guide

Written by
Gloria Levine, M.A.

Note

The text used to prepare this guide was the Bantam Classic softcover. If other editions are used, page references may vary slightly. The novel was first published in 1884.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

ISBN 978-1-60878-327-4

Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2010 by Novel Units, Inc., Bulverde, Texas. All rights reserved. Reproduction of any part of this product is strictly prohibited. No part of this publication may be translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted or shared in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc. Reproduction of any part of this publication for multiple school terms, an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Novel Units, Inc.

Publisher Information
For a complete catalog, contact—

Novel Units, Inc.
P.O. Box 97
Bulverde, TX 78163-0097

Web site: novelunits.com

For more digital resources, visit:
ebooks.ecslarningsystems.com

Table of Contents

Plot Summary	3
Background on the Novelist	5
Initiating Activities	6
Discussion Questions, Prediction, Anticipation Guide, Interest Hook, Log, Verbal Scales, Brainstorming, Role Play, Geography, Vocabulary, Novel Detective	
Vocabulary, Discussion Questions, Writing Ideas, Activities	
Chapters 1-7	10
Chapters 8-13	13
Chapters 14-18	16
Chapters 19-23	18
Chapters 24-28	20
Chapters 29-33	23
Chapters 34-39	25
Chapters 40-41	27
Post-Reading Extension Activities	29
Extension/Assessment Activities	30
These activities may be used for assessment.	

Note: Quizzes, tests and vocabulary checks are provided in the Student Packet for *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Vocabulary • Discussion Questions Writing Ideas • Activities

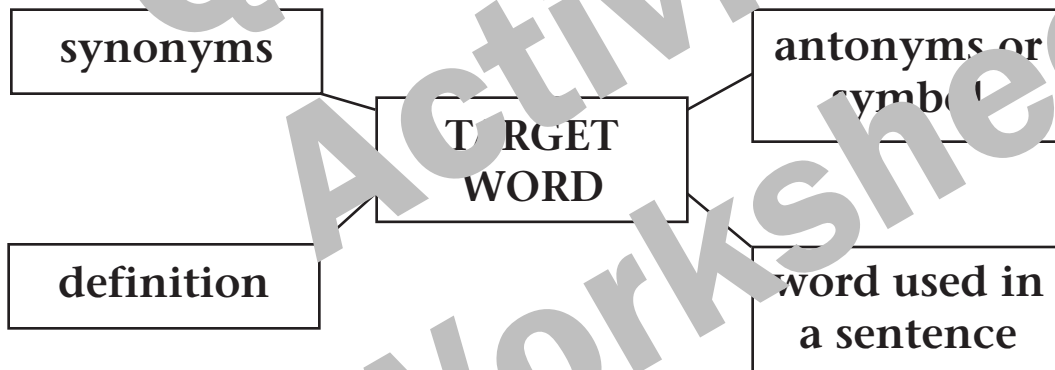
Chapters 1-7
Pages 1-36

Vocabulary

hoghead 3	bonfire 13	victuals 4	snuff 4
trance 7	odd-boils 8	tail-yard 5	skiff 8
oath 9	highwaymen 10	ransomed 11	Providence 12
whale 13	hived 13	sioga 14	genies 15
lockey 16	saltcellar 16	sea 17	hair-ball 18
annoyed 19	temperance 21	luncheon 23	navigate 23
learned 23	welts 21	clapboards 25	nabob 27
barked 28	delusion time 28	palavering 30	stony 31
slough 33	vestment 34	carcass 34	stabboard 36

Vocabulary Activity

Word mapping is an activity that is appropriate for use with any vocabulary list. Students work cooperatively to create word maps like the one whose format is shown below. For words that have no clear antonyms, students provide a picture or symbol that captures the word's meaning.



Discussion Questions:

1. Who is the narrator? (14-year-old Huckleberry Finn) How did he end up staying with the Widow Douglas? (In *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, the widow took in Huck—whose alcoholic father neglected and abused him—after Huck and Tom found a robber’s stash in a cave.) How did his friend, Tom, convince him to come back to her after running away? (Tom said Huck could join a band of robbers if he went back to the widow.)
2. What does Huck think of the widow? How does she show she is kind, but is annoyed by the way she tries to civilize Tom—dresses him up, won’t let him smoke, tries to give him a religious education? How does he feel about her tall tales and her snuff? (He thinks her attitudes make no sense; she goes on about people in the Bible who are no reason, takes snuff but criticizes him for smoking.) Why do you suppose she has taken him in? What would you do with him if he were in your car?
3. Who is Miss Watson? (the widow’s sister, how is she like her sister? (tries to civilize Huck) How is she different? (she does more nagging and is less kind than the widow.)

Miss Watson	Widow Douglas

Why doesn’t Huck like Miss Watson? How does she make him feel? (none of it!)

4. How can you tell that Huck is superstitious? (p. 13 lists beliefs—seeing a spider is a bad sign, tying up a lock of hair keeps witches away. What are two or three of the strangest superstitions he believes in?)
5. Who is Jim? (Miss Watson’s slave) What trick does Tom play on him? (puts a hat on overhead limb) What is the result? (Jim awakens and thinks the witches rode him all over the state.)
6. Why does Tom Sawyer join a gang? (to commit robbery and murder.) Does it remind you of any group you ever belonged to? What sort of oath do they swear? (never tell group’s secrets, kill family of anyone who harms a band member) Do you think they are a dangerous group? Would they really hurt anyone? Who are the “A-rabs” that the gang “ambuscades”? (The gang pretends to ambush a group of Arabs—actually some children at a Sunday school picnic.) Where does the gang get the ideas for its adventures? (mainly Tom’s readings)

7. What is the hair-ball oracle? (Jim tells fortunes using an ox's hairball.) Does Jim's prediction for Huck come true? (He predicts trouble and joy; Huck finds trouble—his father—waiting for him.) Does this sort of fortune-telling remind you of anything we have today? (tea leaves, Tarot cards, fortune cookies, horoscopes)
8. How does Huck feel about seeing his father again? (frightened) Why? (His father beats him, takes his money.) Why don't the jurors protect Huck? (The new judge thinks courts shouldn't separate families.) Would they protect him better today? How does Pap offend the new judge? (He tells him he will give up drinking and reform himself.)
9. Why does Pap try to kill Huck? (Pap has hallucinations, thinks Huck is the Death Angel.) How does Huck fool him and get away? (He makes a hole in the wall, smears pig blood around, makes it appear like a robbery/murder.)
10. **Prediction:** What will Huck do on Jackson's island? What will he find there? How will he survive? How long will he stay?

Writing Activity

Reread the section on page 32 where Huck describes everything he takes with him when he runs away from home. Write about your own escape from danger. This might be an actual flight from physical danger—or an emotional distancing from a psychological danger. (Why are you fleeing? What would you take along with you? Would having your resources—as Huck has—give you a sense of security?)

Literary Analysis: Setting

Explain that the **setting** is the time and place of events in a story. What is the setting at the outset of this novel?



The Mississippi Valley in which Mark Twain grew up inspired his imagination and the river itself becomes a central character in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Have students consider what this story might have been like in a different setting.

Research

What is the story about Moses and the "Bulrushers" that the widow tells Huck?

9. Why does Huck worry that he can't afford to buy an "outfit" and go for an adventure with Tom? (Huck is afraid his father has gotten Huck's money and spent it on liquor.) How does Jim let him know that his worries are unfounded? (Jim reveals that the dead man they saw in the floating house was Pap.)
10. How is the ending of this story like the ending of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*? (Huck is thinking about how to avoid being "civilized"—this time by Aunt Sally.) Do you think Aunt Sally will adopt Huck? What do you think he has against being "civilized"? What might Mark Twain be saying about boyhood freedom?

Writing Activity

- a) Consider how Huck has changed over the course of the novel and write a **diament** poem about him.

_____ noun that describes Huck at the beginning

_____ adjective _____ adjective

_____ participle _____ participle _____ participle

_____ noun _____ noun _____ noun _____ noun

_____ participle _____ participle _____ participle

_____ idijective _____ adjective

_____ noun that describes Huck at the end of the novel

* an "ing word," such as "alking"

- b) Write a news article for Huck's home town newspaper about how he was found alive. The article should include a description of Jim's situation and should contain interview quotes and eyewitness accounts.

Literary Analysis: Epic

Explain that an **epic** is a literary composition that celebrates the feats of a legendary or traditional hero. Discuss why this novel has been referred to as an epic of life? Ask students whether Huck fits their definition of a hero. In what situations did he demonstrate courage?

Cinquain form:

- character's name
- adjective, adjective
- verb-ing, verb-ing, verb-ing
- four word free sentence
- noun that describes who character is

9. Write your own short story about a runaway. Fill in the following chart as a pre-writing activity.

Who is the runaway and what is he/she like?	Why is he/she running away? With whom?
one-sentence summary of your idea:	
Where does/s/he travels take him/her?	What problems does he/she encounter?

10. Write a flashback scene from an earlier time that didn't appear in the novel but might have—such as a scene showing Jim and Huck together before their flight or a dinner table scene with Huck, the widow, and Miss Watson.
11. Write an essay on one of the following topics:
- a) *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has a darker tone than its “prequel”—*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*...
 - b) Mark Twain often assumes Huck Finn's voice...
 - c) Huck and Jim are both on a quest for freedom...
 - d) In this novel, Mark Twain demonstrates his ear for dialect...