

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
10H English Essay Questions for Study

Answer each of the following questions IN PARAGRAPH FORM. Do not limit yourself to one paragraph for each question. Provide specific examples from the story to support your statements. If a question has to be answered in terms of how you feel about something, I expect MUCH more than "I don't like it" or something similar. Each question is worth 25 points. Four to five sentence responses will not earn full credit. I want LONG, DETAILED responses. **HANDWRITE YOUR RESPONSES.** Neatness matters.

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Twain uses the book to comment on race relations and equality in the South. He illustrates how slaves like Jim and others who, by Southern standards, are "low-down" are actually the noblest of all. Discuss two or three aspects of this topic or two or three characters who illustrate this idea.
2. Huck and Jim have an unusual relationship in the book, one that is most comparable to a father and son relationship. It has very little to do with race, but has more to do with human dignity. Compare and contrast Huck's treatment of Jim with the treatment of blacks by others in the book.
3. In Chapter 32, Huck tells his Aunt Sally that he was delayed because of an accident on the riverboat:

"It warn't the grounding -- that didn't keep us back but a little. We blowed out a cylinder-head."

"Good gracious! anybody hurt?"

"No'm. Killed a n-----."

"Well, it's lucky; because sometimes people do get hurt. Two years ago last Christmas your uncle Silas was coming up from Newrleans on the old *Lally Rook*, and she blowed out a cylinder-head and crippled a man. And I think he died afterwards. He was a Baptist. Your uncle Silas knowed a family...

How do you feel about these lines? Consider the fact that Huck is speaking here. Why do you think Twain chose to include this exchange and to have Huck as a speaker in it?

4. Why does pap forbid Huck to go to school? How would you react to pap's demand if you were Huck?
5. What does the river mean to Huck?
6. Throughout the story, Huck rebels against civilization. At the end of the novel, has he become more "civilized"?
7. Who is the most admirable character in the novel? Who is the least admirable character?
8. When protecting Jim, Huck violates the law of the land. Clearly, however, he did the right thing. In your view, are there current laws at the local, state, or federal level that you believe are unjust? Do you believe any person has a right to break a man-made law that goes counter to his or her conscience and moral beliefs? ANSWER BOTH QUESTIONS.