



# KWHL Strategy

## For *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

### Topic: Slavery

Purpose: The KWHL strategy is a learning activity that engages the student in the topic associated with the literature being read. The strategy focuses on the context of a novel and the issues that will help the student understand the novel better and be more involved. The student focuses on what the student knows, what he/she would like to know, how he/she could find that out, and what he/she were able to learn.

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Hand out the KWHL worksheet prior to reading *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. This strategy will help the students become familiar with one of the main issues of the book: slavery.
2. Have the students fill out the first column of the worksheet- WHAT I KNOW. The students should try to fill in any information that they know about slavery.
3. Discuss as a class and write on the board some of the facts that they know.
4. Have the students fill in the second column with questions WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW. Have some of the students volunteer these questions to the class.
5. Have the students fill in the third column with ways in which they can find the information. They may need assistance on this one. On the teacher KWHL chart there are examples of resources that the students can use. Encourage them to use the library and Internet resources.
6. As homework have the students research to fill out the fourth column WHAT I LEARNED.
7. When the students return the next day discuss what they learned. Write on the board the different facts the students discovered on their own. Feel free to supplement to the information they give from the teacher's KWHL sheet as well as personal knowledge.
8. Use this discussion to tie into *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Discuss one or more of the following:
  - Who Huckleberry was and his relationship with slaves.
  - Jim and his role in the book.
  - How the book deals with the idea of runaway slaves.
  - The decisions that Huck has to make in the context of his society

Assessment: The K-W-H-L activity will provide valuable assessment of what students already know about a topic. Collect the students' individual charts to assess what they knew, what they have learned, and what else they need to be taught.