

Story Grammar
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Plot: Huck escapes from his drunken father and heads down the river only to find himself in several different adventures along the way.

Themes: Escape, hope for a better life, personal growth, self-discovery, parent-child relationships, maturity, cultural differences.

Setting: Along the Mississippi River, Summer 1885

Characters:

HUCK FINN--The narrator of the story who runs away from all the adults who are trying to civilize him and starts down the river.

PAP--Huck's drunken father who constantly causes problems in Huck's life.

Miss Watson: The woman who cares for Huck and sends him to school and tries to teach him some manners.

JIM--the negro slave who escapes from Miss Watson's plantation right around the same time Huck escaped and joined up with Huck along the river.

THE KING AND THE DUKE--Two scoundrels Huck and Jim meet along the river. They continuously take advantage of Huck and Jim and swindle money from the people in the towns they encounter along their way down the river.

TOM SAWYER--Huck's best friend who joins up with Huck toward the end of his journey and manipulates a way to help Jim escape.

Chain of Events:

INITIATING EVENT--After moving from one place to the next and one parental figure to the next, Huck ends up trapped in his Pap's house. He finally figures out a way to escape and runs away with all the food and supplies he can find with no plans of returning.

INTERNAL RESPONSE--His main reason for escaping is to do just that....escape. He's fed up with everybody trying to tell him what to do, and he decides he's better off on his own making his own decisions and taking care of himself. He doesn't really know where he's going to go, but he's excited to be on his own.

OUTCOME--Huck meets up with Jim, and they make their way down the river taking responsibility for things like food and shelter, and have a great time doing it. They meet up with several people along the way, with whom they

experience a number of adventurous events.

RESOLUTION--Continuing down the river, they learn that the people in their town are in search of Jim and Huck, and there is a reward out for them both. Tom Sawyer meets up with them somehow and devises a ridiculous, extravagant plan to help Jim escape for good. Jim does escape and Tom and Huck continue out in the wilderness on their own.

REACTION--The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain is an entertaining novel filled with exciting times in the life of a boy growing up in a difficult family situation. It's interesting to explore the thoughts and actions of Huck and see how they represent the experiences of most children. As a teacher or parent dealing with children, one can learn a great deal from Huck's experiences and understand children and how they see and face problems. A child can empathize with Huck and find comfort in reading about someone going through problems of their own.