

Discussion Points: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Chapters 1-9

1. What can a reader expect from a story told in first person point of view? How does the point of view affect the narrative thus far?
2. In what ways is Huck different than the other boys in Tom Sawyer's gang?
3. Describe how Huck's opinion of Tom changes as Chapter 3 develops.
4. Explain the significance of the woods to Huck's life and what it represents in the novel.
5. How does Chapter 4 depict Jim as Huck's confidante? Why is this relationship successful?
6. Why does Huck trust the magic hairball's advice more than Jim's? In other words, why does Huck seek answers from the hairball and not directly from Jim? What aspects of human nature is Twain highlighting here? Explain what events are foreshadowed in this "advice".
7. In Chapter 5, how does Twain express his skepticism toward men who claim to be "reformed" and those who push to "reform" others?
8. In Chapter 6, explain the irony of Pap's holding Huck against his will. Consider what has taken place in previous chapters.
9. How does Twain begin to question the morality of slavery in these chapters (especially in Chapter 6)?
10. In Chapter 8, what satire about religion does Huck offer in this chapter?
11. Explain the significance of the Mississippi Valley's caves and caverns in the story thus far.
12. How does weather contrast with the mood of Jim and Huck at the start of Chapter 9?

General:

- Huck's character...how many internal/external influences are there, what are they, how have they affected him, his various conflicts so far both internal and external...pay attention to imagery and notice what Huck notices in his vivid descriptions of *everything* (the night, noises, isolation, slavery, people, etc., etc.). You need to be able to see the experience through Huck's eyes as well as your own
- Tom's role...is he a foil for Huck?
- How do we characterize Jim based on his dialogue and actions so far in the text?
- You need to begin keeping up with the literary and biblical allusions and their significance: thus far, how many have we seen?
- How does humor function within the text?
- What are the various social commentaries Twain is approaching thus far? Where in the text?
- The PPT notes weren't just for fun...you should begin keeping track of all the stuff mentioned there.