Chapters 6-11: Escape and the Wealth of Self

QUESTIONS

1. What sort of person does Huck reveal his father to be? What is Huck’s relationship with his father?

2. Why does Huck stage his own murder rather than simply running away? What repercussions could this choice have on those who care about him?

3. What are Huck’s feelings about the river and living closely with nature?

4. Why does Huck tell Jim he won’t turn him in, when he is so frankly opposed to abolition? What does this reveal about Huck’s character?

5. Huck and Jim are runaways seeking freedom. In two columns, list the reasons and differences in their motivation to escape.

QUOTATIONS

1. “I didn’t want to go to school much before, but I reckoned I’d go now to spite pap” (31).

2. “Thinks I, what is the country a-coming to? It was ‘lection day, and I was just about to go and vote myself if I warn’t too drunk to get there; but when they told me there was a state in this country where they’d let that nigger vote, I drawed out. I says I’ll never vote ag’in” (35).

3. “I did wish Tom Sawyer was there; I knowed he would take an interest in this kind of business, and throw in the fancy touches” (41).

4. “[S]omebody prayed that this bread would find me, and here it has gone and done it…there’s something in it when a body like the widow or the parson prays, but it don’t work for me and I reckon it don’t work for only just the right kind” (45).

5. “People would call me a low-down Abolitionist and despise me for keeping mum—but that don’t make no difference. I ain’t a-going to tell” (50).

6. “I’s rich now, come to look at it. I owns myself, en I’s wuth eight hund’d dollars” (54).