

Huckleberry finnexample essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Chapter 1:

The narrator (later identified as Huckleberry Finn) begins Chapter One by stating that the reader may know of him from another book, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by “ Mr. Mark Twain,” but it “ ain’t t no matter” if you have not. According to Huck, Twain mostly told the truth, with some “ stretchers” thrown in, though everyone—except Tom’s Aunt Polly, the widow, and maybe Mary—lies once in a while. The other book ended with Tom and Huckleberry finding the gold some robbers had hidden in a cave. They got six thousand dollars apiece, which Judge Thatcher put in trust, so that they each got a dollar a day from interest. The Widow Douglas adopted and tried to “ civilise” Huck. But Huck couldn’t stand it so he threw on his old rags and ran away. But he went back when Tom Sawyer told him he could join his new band of robbers if he would return to the Widow “ and be respectable.”

The Widow lamented over her failure with Huck, tried to stuff him into cramped clothing, and before every meal had to “ grumble” over the food before they could eat it. She tried to teach him about Moses, until Huck found out he was dead and lost interest. Meanwhile, she would not let him smoke; typically, she disapproved of it because she had never tried it, but approved of snuff since she used it herself. Her slim sister who wears glasses, Miss Watson, tried to give him spelling lessons.

Meanwhile, Huck was going stir-crazy, made especially restless by the sisters’ constant reminders to improve his behavior. When Miss Watson told him about the “ bad place,” Hell, he burst out that he would like to go there, as a change of scenery. Secretly, Huck really does not see the point in going

to “ the good place” and resolved then not to bother trying to get there.

When Huck asked, Miss Watson told him there was no chance Tom Sawyer would end up in Heaven. Huck was glad “ because I wanted him and me to be together.”

One night, after Miss Watson’s prayer session with him and the slaves, Huck goes to bed feeling “ so lonesome I wished I was dead.” He gets shivers hearing the sounds of nature through his window. Huck accidentally flicks a spider into a candle, and is frightened by the bad omen. Just after midnight, Huck hears movement below the window, and a “ me-yow” sound, that he responds to with another “ me-yow.” Climbing out the window onto the shed, Huck finds Tom Sawyer waiting for him.

Chapter 2-3:

Huck and Tom tiptoe through the garden. Huck trips on a root as he passes the kitchen. Jim, a “ big” slave, hears him from inside. Tom and Huck crouch down, trying to stay still. But Huck is struck by an uncontrollable itch, as always happens when he is in a situation, like when he’s “ with the quality,” where it is bad to scratch. Jim says aloud that he will stay put until he discovers the source of the sound, but after several minutes falls asleep. Tom plays a trick on Jim—putting his hat on a tree branch over his head—and takes candles from the kitchen, over Huck’s objections that they will risk getting caught. Later, Jim will say that some witches flew him around the state and put the hat above his head as a calling card. He expands the tale further, becoming a local celebrity among the slaves, who enjoy witch stories. He wears around his neck the five-cent piece Tom left for the

candles, calling it a charm from the devil with the power to cure sickness. Jim nearly becomes so stuck-up from his newfound celebrity that he is unfit to be a servant.

Meanwhile, Tom and Huck meet up with a few other boys, and take a boat to a large cave. There, Tom declares his new band of robbers, "Tom Sawyer's Gang." All must sign in blood an oath vowing, among other things, to kill the family of any member who reveals the gang's secrets. The boys think it "a real beautiful oath." Tom admits he got part of it from books. The boys nearly disqualify Huck,