

# 'the adventures of huckleberry finn': huck's ark

Literature



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Huckleberry Finn, the narrator of Mark Twain's novel "The adventures of Huckleberry Finn", is a 12 year-old boy who has a terrible experience regarding family relationships. However, full of energy and mischievousness, Huck questions whether the rules are blameless or iniquitous, whether society is condign or askew. Prevailing the cataclysms of society (who marked that niggers and whites should not be treated as equals), Huck's innocence is the tool used by Twain to criticize society.

Mark Twain, pseudonym of Samuel Clemens, and his more than 30 books are world wide known because of his social criticism -moral and politically speaking-, beclouded with cloak of humor, irony and satire, which conveys to a sagacious reflection towards society, specially the society of the 19th century. Nonetheless, the criticism made in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", novel written two decades before the Civil War in order to assail the racist and intolerant society of the time, was considered too harsh and abhorrent; so much as it was banned in schools and libraries of the United States.

Despite the fact it was banned, the book has a strong theme -typical of American literature- and leads to a profound meditation of a bigot, reckless and indifferent society, besides, this is even stronger as it is narrated by an innocent soul. It is very remarkable the usage of dialogue -black and southern dialects- in this novel, whose effectiveness takes you back into 1840. "Yo' ole father doan' know, yit, whats he's a-gwyne to do..." ("The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" M. Twain. page 246)

Other adventurers that star in novels are Robinson Crusoe in "The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe" by Daniel Defoe, as well as Tom Sawyer in "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" also by Mark Twain. Tom Sawyer will be another crew member onboard Huck's raft, and he is a turning point for Huck to set out his adventure. "The Widow Douglas she took me for her son, and allowed she would sivilize me" ("The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" M. Twain. page 237) says the young adventurer, prior to beginning his first exciting odyssey. Unfortunately, his first odyssey had to be aborted.

Huck's custody has been given by the law to a wretch, miserable man, who mistreated children, whose only pleasure was wine, whose heart was as hard as a stone and full of greed, Huck's father. However, remember the mischievous and adventurer spirit of the protagonist, Huck Finn, will not be shut down and it would lead him to plan his run away. Because Huck was uncomfortable while living with his father, he designed a clever and well structured plan, a pig, an ax, a bag, and -of course- a raft are elements required to fulfill Finn's frolicsome strategy. He makes everybody think he is dead.

However, it cannot be so easy, Jim, a runaway slave who worked for the Widow Douglass, is thought to have killed Huck. Afterwards, Jim joins the crew of Huck's raft. The runaway nigger slave, who represents the typical superstition of the time -which Twain mocks at-, paradoxically, in a certain point of the story, becomes a king. He would not be the only highness onboard Huck's raft, two more royal members will aboard, another king, and a duke. The royalty coupled with Huck navigate all throughout the Mississippi

river for several months, time when Huck finds a true friend in a black runaway slave.