



# The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

## Analysis Essay



Although Mark Twain warns us that anyone caught trying to analyze his novel will “be shot,” it is obvious that, through the self-reliant Huck Finn, Twain speaks on several moral issues. Write an essay that analyzes one of Mark Twain’s lessons about humanity. Use evidence (quotes, symbols, and events) to support a thesis. Identify what Huck’s experiences teach him.

**Racism and Slavery:** How does the racism in Huck’s society affect his perceptions of right and wrong? What does Huck learn about slavery and racism through his adventures with Jim?

**Huck Finn’s Moral Growth:** Analyze how Huck’s adventures shape his personality, opinions, and morals. Identify how his ideas of right and wrong evolve as a result of his experiences.

**The Novel’s Controversy:** Why would some consider several events in the novel to actually propagate racism and stereotypes of slaves rather than serving to abolish slavery and end racism? In what ways is the novel abolitionist?

**Deception:** What rules does Huck develop in relation to deception? What forms of deception does he consider acceptable, and what forms does he come to despise? Why? What does this show about his growth as a human being?

**Self-reliance:** Analyze how Huck Finn’s independence allows him to grow beyond the simplistic and often erroneous beliefs of those around him. How does his self-reliance also enable him to achieve his goals in spite of adversity?

**Religion/The Supernatural:** How does Huck perceive the relationships of others with God to be distinct from his own? How does he test his theories on the supernatural? What conclusions does Huck come to about God? Why are these conclusions significant?



## Rubric

Introduction	___/10
Hook, connector, and thesis statement	
Body Organization	___/10
Answer the prompt completely with organized paragraphs that support the thesis.	
Claims	___/20
Topic sentences; main point of each paragraph	
Evidence and Lead-in to Evidence	___/20
Quotes, symbols, and paraphrases of events	
Analysis/Interpretation/Evaluation	___/20
All evidence is analyzed in detail in relation to the thesis	
Conclusion	___/10
Restate what was proved; end with final thought	
Follows Directions	___/10
Min. 2 pages; 1-inch margins; 12-point font, double spaced; cite pages; MLA formatting	
<b>Content Total</b>	___/100
<b>Grammar Total</b>	___/100