

Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum
 Lesson or Unit Plan for Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
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“Huck Finn Virtual Book Club”

UNIT for (<u>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</u>)	
Concept or Topic: Virtual Book Study	Suggested Grade Level(s)/Course: 11 th Grade
Subject: AP US History	Suggested Time Frame: 8 weeks – one section per week – completed outside of class
Objective(s): Students will read and analyze Mark Twain’s “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” to gain an understanding of life during the mid-1800s and the themes that were important to Twain when he wrote the book towards the end of the 19 th century.	
<p>AP US History Standards: <u>Historical Thinking Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.A Identify a source’s point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience. 2.B Explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/ or audience of a source. 2.C Explain the significance of a source’s point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/ or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source. 3.A Identify and describe a claim and/or argument in a text based or non-text-based source. 3.B Identify the evidence used in a source to support an argument. 5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process. <p><u>Reasoning Processes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.i: Describe similarities and/or differences between different historical developments or processes. 1.ii: Explain relevant similarities and/ or differences between specific historical developments and processes. 2.i: Describe causes and/or effects of a specific historical development or process. 2.ii: Explain the relationship between causes and effects of a specific historical development or process. <p><u>Topics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KC-4.1.II While Americans embraced a new national culture, various groups developed distinctive cultures of their own. 	

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KC-4.1.II.B A new national culture emerged that combined American elements, European influences, and regional cultural sensibilities.

KC-4.1.II.C Liberal social ideas from abroad and Romantic beliefs in human perfectibility influenced literature, art, philosophy, and architecture

KC-4.1.II.A.i The rise of democratic and individualistic beliefs, a response to rationalism, and changes to society caused by the market revolution, along with greater social and geographical mobility, contributed to a Second Great Awakening among Protestants.

KC-4.1.III.A Americans formed new voluntary organizations that aimed to change individual behaviors and improve society through temperance and other reform efforts.

KC-4.1.III.B.i Abolitionist and antislavery movements gradually achieved emancipation in the North, contributing to the growth of the free African American population, even as many state governments restricted African Americans' rights.

KC-4.3.II.B.i Antislavery movements increased in the North.

KC-4.1.III.B.ii Antislavery efforts in the South were largely limited to unsuccessful slave rebellions.

KC-4.1.II.D Enslaved blacks and free African Americans created communities and strategies to protect their dignity and family structures, and they joined political efforts aimed at changing their status.

KC-4.3.II.B.ii In the South, although the majority of Southerners owned no slaves, most leaders argued that slavery was part of the Southern way of life.

KC-5.1.II In the 1840s and 1850s, Americans continued to debate questions about rights and citizenship for various groups of U.S. inhabitants.

Assessments: Weekly multiple choice (MC) questions based on reading and 2 Open-Ended Response (OERs) questions per week.

Subject Area Integration: History, American Literature, Writing

Background Information Required for Lesson: A background on Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) and the storyline of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.

Materials: Book – any format will work, but should not be abridged

Technology: Access to the internet, computer or laptop is preferable but anywhere the student can type responses to essay questions.

Related Twain Quotes/Passages: NA

Lesson Sequence:

Week 1: Assignment will be introduced to the students; they will have a few days to learn or review information on Mark Twain (<https://marktwainhouse.org/about/mark-twain/>) and The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. By the end of the week the students should have read the Intro through chapter 7, completed the MC for content review and 2 essay questions using complete sentences.

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Week 1: MC Questions (There are two questions per chapter provided. All questions could be used, but I would suggest a random selection of 5 questions.)

**Here is an example of a set of questions for the first week, just basic knowledge questions.

1. In what book do readers first meet Huckleberry Finn?
 - a) **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**
 - b) The King and I
 - c) Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
 - d) Prince and the Pauper
2. In chapter 1, what did Huck believe would give him bad luck?
 - a) Stepping on an ant
 - b) **Killing a spider**
 - c) A horseshoe that he had stolen
 - d) Nothing, Huck did not believe in bad luck
3. When Tom and Huck were almost caught by Jim, what did Tom leave in exchange for the 3 candles he took?
 - a) A penny
 - b) Nothing, he stole the candles
 - c) Food
 - d) **A five-cent piece**
4. What is the goal/objective of Tom Sawyer's Gang?
 - a) It is a book club
 - b) Grave robbing
 - c) Spelunking (Caving)
 - d) **Robbery and Murder**
5. What is the name of the widow who has taken Huck in?
 - a) Aunt Polly
 - b) Rachel
 - c) **Miss Watson**
 - d) Miss Clemens
6. How long did Tom Sawyer's Gang last?
 - a) 1 year
 - b) Until the boys grew up and got jobs
 - c) 1 week
 - d) **1 month**
7. At the beginning of chapter 4, what happens that causes Huck to believe he will have bad luck?
 - a) He kills a spider
 - b) **He knocks over the salt-cellar at breakfast, but is stopped from throwing some over his shoulder to counteract the bad luck**
 - c) The widow says a prayer for him
 - d) There was a cross in the left boot heel
8. Who did Huck find in his room when he goes up for bed at the end of Chapter 4?
 - a) Tom Sawyer
 - b) Jim
 - c) **Pap**
 - d) The Widow
9. Why was Huck initially afraid of Pap?

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- a) He was afraid Pap was going to steal his money
b) **Pap used to tan(beat) him a lot**
c) He thought Pap was a ghost
d) He was afraid that Pap would take him away from the widow
10. Who tried to reform Pap?
a) Huck
b) Jim
c) The Widow
d) **Judge Thatcher**
11. Why did Pap finally take Huck from the widow's home?
a) He didn't like that Huck was going to school.
b) Huck refused to give Pap all his money.
c) **The widow told Pap that if he didn't quit using around her house, she would make trouble for him.**
d) Huck wanted to live with Pap.
12. When Pap began chasing Huck around with a knife, who or what did he think Huck was?
a) A snake
b) A tramp
c) A thief
d) **The angel of death**
13. How did Huck explain the gun to Pap after the night Pap chased him with the knife?
a) Huck told him he was planning on leaving, even if he had to shoot Pap.
b) **Huck told Pap that someone tried to break in the night before and he was just trying to protect them.**
c) Huck said he couldn't remember.
d) Huck said Pap had given it to him the night before to go hunting.
14. What type of animal's blood did Huck use to fake his death?
a) **Pig**
b) Deer
c) Dog
d) Cow

OERs (Essay Questions)

1. Huckleberry believes in many superstitions. Do you think luck plays a part in your life? Do you believe in any superstitions, such as lucky numbers or a particular animal or insect bringing good or bad luck? Explain your responses fully.
2. Huck decides to escape his father by faking his own death. Do you think this was the right thing to do or do you think there might have been a better solution? If something like this (Pap's treatment of Huck) was going on in today's world, what do you think the kid in the situation should do? Explain your responses fully.

Week 2: Students will read chapter 8-12, complete MC questions and the following 2 OERs

OERs (Essay Questions)

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1. In chapter 8, Huck finds Jim on the island. Jim has run away because he overheard Miss Watson discussing selling him for \$800 to a slave trader who would take him to New Orleans, separating him from his family. Keep in mind the fact that Jim did not wait to hear if Miss Watson would indeed sell him and by running away, he is leaving his family. Do you think Jim was justified in his actions? Explain your answer and tell me what you think you would have done if you were in the same situation.
2. In chapter 12, Huck and Jim discuss the morality of stealing. Review their conversations and then explain your thoughts on what they say and do. Do you agree or disagree with them? If you were in a similar situation, what do you think you would do. Explain.

Week 3: Students will read chapter 13-16, complete MC questions and the following 2 OERs

OERs (Essay Questions)

1. Think about the relationship that Huck and Jim are developing. There are times they appear to be equals and times when they don't. What are your thoughts on their relationship and do you think one or the other should be leading this "adventure". Explain.
2. There are two times so far that Huck has had to decide whether he should help Jim escape or allow those who are looking for him to find him. This happens once on the island and again when slave hunters want to search Huck's raft. Both times Huck makes the decision to protect Jim, even though he is not sure it is the right decision. Why does he end up making this decision? How do these decisions affect Huck as a character? Explain.

Week 4: Students will read chapter 17-20, complete MC questions and the following 2 OERs

OERs (Essay Questions)

1. In chapters 17 and 18 Huck meets the Grangerfords and the family they have a feud with, the Shepherdsons. Give a brief accounting of what happened with the two families during the two chapters and then explain your thoughts on why the author would include these characters and their feud into this novel.
2. In chapter 19, Huck, Jim and the reader meet the Duke and the Dauphin/King. Are these men dangerous to Huck and Jim? Explain your response. You may want to discuss some of their actions to support your thoughts.

Week 5: Students will read chapter 21-25, complete MC questions and the following 2 OERs

OERs (Essay Questions)

1. Considering the decisions Huck has made during his journey with Jim, why do you think he continued to allow the Duke and the King to take advantage of people to the point of helping them to escape? Do you

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think it is the norm for his character or does it go against the characterization of Huck up until this point in the novel? Explain.

2. Chapter 24 ends with Huck stating, "It was enough to make a body ashamed of the human race." What is his statement referring to? Do you agree with him? Explain and discuss what you may or may not do if a similar situation were to happen in your life.

Week 6: Students will read chapter 26-30, complete MC questions and the following 2 OERs

OERs (Essay Questions)

1. Why do you think Huck breaks down and tells Mary Jane what is going on and where the money is? Does this fit with what you know of Huck so far? Explain.
2. Do you think the Duke and the King are capable con men? Do you think hanging out with Huck and Jim and traveling with them on their raft was a help or a hindrance? Explain your answers.

Week 7: Students will read chapter 31-36, complete MC questions and the following 2 OERs

OERs (Essay Questions)

1. In chapter 31, Jim is returned to slavery. How does Huck react to this and what is his final decision about Jim and slavery overall? If a similar situation happened to you in today's world, for instance a friend of yours was being abused or not safe in their home environment, and they were forced to return to it...what do you think would be the right thing for you to do, if anything, and what do you think you would be capable of doing? Explain.
2. When Tom Sawyer appears in the novel, he brings back the fun and adventure that Huck enjoys. Do you think Tom's appearance was necessary? Do you believe it falls in line with what was going on in the rest of the book? Explain your answer.

Week 8: Students will read chapter 37 through the end, complete MC questions and the following 2 OERs

OERs (Essay Questions)

1. At the end of the book both Huck and the reader learn about the death of Pap and that Jim knew the whole time. What do you think of his decision to keep this information from Huck? Who was Jim thinking of when he made the decision? Explain your thoughts.
2. Now that you have completed the novel, "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", what are your overall thoughts? Do you feel that this book is an important novel in American history? Please explain thoroughly with at least 5-7 sentences.

Strategies for Exceptional Students: Entire assignment will be open and students will be able to work at their own pace, all students will be required to meet the deadlines, but they can complete their work earlier than the due date.

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Suggested Follow-Up Activities: Have a wrap up in person meeting to gain overall impressions and wrap up the assignment.