

You have been recommended for English III Honors in the upcoming school year. It is a privilege and a great achievement to be accepted into the Honors program. Your placement in the class is contingent upon the completion of summer reading in preparation for class. This summer you will read *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain and complete the following assignments.

1. BEFORE reading *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* complete the pre-reading question sheet. Think about your responses carefully, as you will use your answers for your first essay assignment at the beginning of the year.
2. You will complete the following activities approximately every **3-4 chapters**.
 - a. Write a short summary of the chapters you have read.
 - b. Select two quotes/passages that are significant to you. Write them down, along with the page number and an explanation of why you think the passage is important (I have included examples for you. See last page).
 - c. Create one symbol or drawing of an important object or idea from the reading selection
 - d. Answer the questions included in the following handout.

It is important that you **do not read the novel too quickly or too slowly**. Pace yourself. Reading the book and completing the work should take you approximately 8 weeks. I have included a timeline along with the assignments to ensure successful completion of the reading and assignments. You will need to read or work a little every day. Please keep all work in **one spiral bound notebook**—it will be easier for you to stay organized and for me to collect at the beginning of the year.

I am looking forward to meeting you next year. Please feel free to contact me at lacyam@gm.sbac.edu or Mrs. Hansen at Hansen_d@cox.net if you have any questions during the summer. (If there are any words or questions that you don't understand—send us an email! Don't wait until school starts.) Enjoy your summer and Huck Finn!

Sincerely,

Ms. Shitama

Huckleberry Reading Assignments and Suggested Timeline

Week 1

1. Complete pre-reading questions.
2. Read and summarize **Chapters 1-3**
3. Select two passages, respond.
4. Create one symbol/drawing
5. Answer the following questions:
 - a. How would you characterize Huck's self-image (how one sees oneself) at this point in the novel? Do you think it is accurate?
 - b. What is the setting of the novel? Why is the time period in which it is set important?

Week 2

1. Read and summarize **Chapters 4-7**
2. Select two passages, respond.
3. Create one symbol/drawing
4. Answer the following questions:
 - a. How does the physical description of Huck's father in Chapter 5 also serve to describe his character?
 - b. What does Huck's father criticize about the "govment"? What does Twain want the reader to feel about these issues?
5. Read and summarize **Chapters 8-11.**
6. Select two passages, respond.
7. Create one symbol/drawing
8. Answer the following questions:
 - c. How does Huck feel about not turning Jim in? Why do you think he feels that way?
 - d. Much of the humor of Huckleberry Finn comes from Huck's being unaware of the comic implications of what he says. What Huck takes seriously, Twain often means to be comic. Find one or two instances of this in these chapters, and explain the difference between what Huck says and what Twain means.

Week 3

1. Read and summarize **Chapters 12-14**
2. Select two passages, respond.
3. Create one symbol/drawing
4. Answer the following questions:
 - a. Why does Huck stop and try to save the murderers and how does this reflect on his character?
 - b. What is the name of the steamboat? Why do you think Twain might have given her that name?
 - c. Why do you think Jim is so vehement in his dislike of King Solomon? What does Jim's stand tell us about him?

Week 3 continued.....

Read and summarize **Chapters 15-16**

5. Select two passages, respond
6. Create one symbol/drawing
7. Answer the following questions:
 - d. What is the principle conflict in Huck's mind about Jim?
 - e. With Huck and Jim below Cairo and the raft destroyed, where do you think the plot can go from here?

Week 4

1. Read and summarize **Chapters 17-18.**
2. Select two passages, respond.
3. Create one symbol/drawing
4. Answer the following questions:
 - a. Would you say that the Grangerfords are basically good or bad people? Why do they end up the way they do?
 - b. At the end of chapter 18, Huck says, "You feel mighty free and easy and comfortable on a raft." How would you compare life on shore and life on the raft so far?
5. Read and summarize **Chapters 19-20**
6. Select two passages, respond.
7. Create one symbol/drawing
8. Answer the following question:
 - c. Huck knows the Duke and King are frauds from the beginning. Why does he pretend that he thinks they are the real thing?

Week 5

1. Read and summarize **Chapters 21-23**
2. Select two passages, respond.
3. Create one symbol/drawing
4. Answer the following question:
 - a. What connection does Huck see between the Duke and King and real royalty? What do you think Twain's opinion is?
5. Read and summarize **Chapters 24-26**
6. Select two passages, respond
7. Create one symbol/drawing
8. Answer the following questions:
 - b. How do clothes change the King? How do clothes change Jim? What would you say the symbolic role of clothes might be in these chapters? (Recall how Huck and Jim dress on the raft.)
 - c. What qualities do the Wilks girls have that allow them to be fooled so easily? How does Mary Jane's response to Joanna's suspicious questioning of Huck help emphasize this?

Week 6

1. Read and summarize **Chapters 27-29**
2. Select two passages, respond
3. Create one symbol/drawing
4. Answer the following question:
 - a. How does Huck feel about Mary Jane in these chapters? What do you think it is about her that he responds to most deeply?
5. Read and summarize **Chapters 30-32**
6. Select two passages, respond
7. Create one symbol/drawing
8. Answer the following questions:
 - b. Briefly describe Huck's thoughts leading up to his decision to write Miss Watson. How does Twain use irony here to make his satirical points?
 - c. Why does Huck decide to "go to hell"? What does this decision say about his character?

Week 7

1. Read and summarize **Chapters 33-35**
2. Select two passages, respond
3. Create one symbol/drawing
4. Answer the following questions:
 - a. How do Huck and Tom overcome the difficulty that they can't take 37 years to free Jim?
 - b. After Tom tells Huck that it's all right for them to steal, Huck steals a watermelon. Tom is angered by this and insists that Huck pay for the watermelon. Why does Tom respond this way, and what does this scene tell us about the difference between Huck and Tom?

Week 8

1. Read and summarize **Chapters 36-39**
2. Select two passages, respond
3. Create one symbol/drawing
4. Answer the following questions:
 - a. How would you compare Huck's and Tom's attitudes toward Jim's escape?
 - b. Is there any evidence that Jim is really suffering? Does Huck's response to Jim's plight seem reasonable to you? Why or why not?

Week 9

1. Read and summarize **Chapters 40-43**
2. Select two passages, respond
3. Create one symbol/drawing
4. Answer the following questions:
 - a. What does Jim's behavior in these chapters say about his character?
 - b. Where is Huck going at the end of the novel? What does this imply about society in which he lives, and his place in it?

