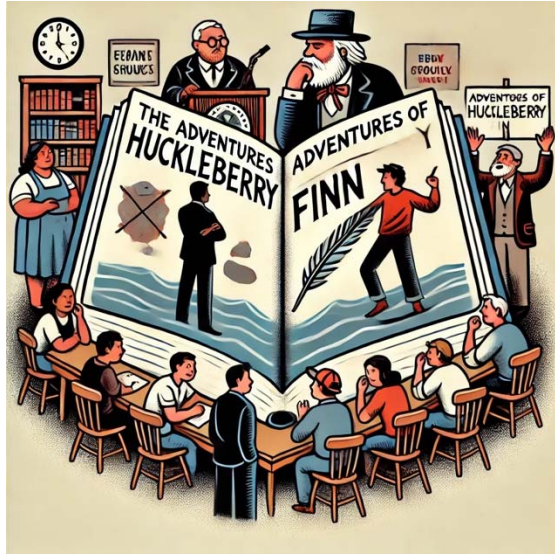


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## A Controversial Classic

Since its publication in 1885, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain has been both celebrated as one of the greatest American novels and criticized for its language and themes. The book tells the story of Huck, a boy who runs away from his troubled home, and Jim, an enslaved man seeking freedom. Their journey down the Mississippi River explores themes of friendship, morality, and the unfair rules of society. However, some readers have

debated whether the novel should be taught in schools.

One reason the novel is celebrated is because it was one of the first books to use everyday American speech. Twain wrote how people really talked in the 1800s, making the story feel real. The novel is also praised for its strong message against racism and injustice. Huck starts out believing what society has taught him—that Jim is less than human. But as he spends time with Jim, he realizes that Jim is kind, smart, and a good friend. Huck eventually chooses to help Jim escape, even though society tells him it is wrong. This theme of thinking for yourself instead of blindly following unfair rules is why many people consider the book a masterpiece. However, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has also been controversial. One major reason is its language. Twain used words and phrases that were common in the 1800s, but today, some of them are considered offensive. Some people feel that these words are too hurtful to be read in classrooms, while others argue that they are important for understanding history.

Another reason the book is debated is because of the way Jim is portrayed. Some critics feel that Jim is not given enough depth and that his character reinforces old stereotypes about African Americans. Others argue that Twain was actually showing Jim as more noble and kind than the white characters, making the reader see the unfairness of racism.

Despite the controversy, the novel remains widely read and studied. Some schools have removed it from their reading lists, while others continue to teach it as an important part of American history. Twain's novel challenges readers to think about fairness, morality, and how society shapes our beliefs. Whether people love it or criticize it, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* continues to spark important discussions about race, freedom, and justice.