

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Breaking Barriers

Huckleberry Finn was a young boy who loved adventure, but he also had a strong sense of right and wrong. In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Huck makes an important decision that challenges what society has told him his whole life.

Huck grew up in Missouri in the 1800s, a time when slavery was legal. He was taught that helping an enslaved person escape was wrong. But when Huck befriends Jim, a kind and intelligent man who is escaping slavery, he begins to question what he has been told. Jim had been forced to work for others without freedom, and all he wanted was to reunite with his family. Huck sees Jim as a person with feelings, dreams, and fears—just like himself.

At first, Huck struggles with guilt because society tells him he is doing something bad by helping Jim. He even considers turning Jim in. But as they travel down the Mississippi River together, Huck realizes that Jim is his true friend. He remembers all the times Jim protected him and cared for him. He starts to understand that what is “right” isn’t always what society says is right.

In a powerful moment, Huck makes a big decision. He chooses to help Jim escape, even though he believes it might mean going to “the bad place” (which is what he calls Hell). He says, “All right, then, I’ll go to hell,” and decides to follow his heart instead of what he has been taught.

Huck’s choice challenges the beliefs of the time. He sees Jim as an equal, not just as someone who is enslaved. Twain uses Huck’s journey to show readers that friendship and kindness are more important than following unfair rules. Through Huck and Jim’s adventure, the novel questions the idea that people should be treated differently because of their skin color. It encourages readers to think about what is truly right and wrong, even when society tells them otherwise.

