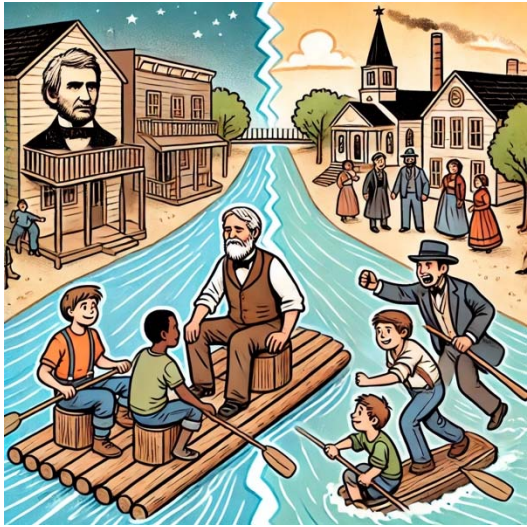


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Divided America

Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is more than just a story about a boy and his adventures—it is a book that reflects the struggles and conflicts of post-Civil War America. Even though the novel takes place before the Civil War, it was written in the 1880s, during a time when America was still deeply divided over race and equality. Twain uses Huck and Jim's journey to show the problems of a society that claimed to be free but still treated African Americans unfairly.

At the time, slavery had officially ended, but life was still hard for Black people in America. Many laws kept them from having the same rights as white people. In the novel, Jim, a runaway enslaved man, represents the struggle of African Americans. Even though he is kind, intelligent, and loving, most people in the story see him as less than human simply because of his skin color. Huck, at first, believes what society has taught him—that helping Jim is wrong. But as they travel together, Huck begins to see Jim as a friend and an equal.

Twain also shows how unfair and hypocritical society can be. Miss Watson, who teaches Huck about religion and good behavior, owns Jim and plans to sell him. The Grangerfords and Shepherdsons, two wealthy families, go to church every Sunday but continue a deadly feud, ignoring the religious teachings of love and forgiveness. Twain uses these examples to criticize a world that talks about fairness but does not practice it.

Huck's journey represents America's struggle to move forward. At first, Huck is confused about what is right and wrong, just as America was struggling with issues of race and equality. Over time, Huck makes his own decisions instead of following society's unfair rules. When he decides to help Jim escape, even though he believes he will "go to hell" for it, Huck shows that doing the right thing is more important than following unjust laws.

By telling the story through Huck's eyes, Twain allows readers to see the problems of society in a way that makes them think. The book reminds us that even though laws can change, people's beliefs and attitudes take longer to evolve. Through Huck and Jim's journey, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* highlights the struggles of America after the Civil War and challenges readers to think about fairness, justice, and equality.

