

Name _____



Huck's Dilemma

Huckleberry Finn is a boy who loves adventure, but his biggest adventure is not just about escaping his old life—it's about figuring out what is right and wrong. Huck has grown up in a society that teaches him to follow certain rules, but as he travels with Jim, a runaway enslaved man, he begins to question what he has been taught.

At first, Huck believes that helping Jim escape is wrong. Society has told him that Jim is someone's property and that helping him is stealing. Huck even considers turning Jim in, thinking that he will get in trouble if he doesn't. But as they travel together, Huck sees that Jim is kind, loyal, and deeply cares about his family. Huck realizes that Jim is not just someone's property—he is a person with feelings.

One moment that shows Huck's struggle happens when he writes a letter to Miss Watson, Jim's owner, to tell her where Jim is. He believes this is the "right" thing to do because society has taught him that returning Jim would make him a good boy. But after thinking about everything Jim has done for him, Huck makes a powerful decision. He rips up the letter and says, "All right, then, I'll go to hell!" This means Huck chooses his friendship with Jim over what society expects of him.

Huck's conscience—his inner voice—tells him that Jim deserves freedom, even if the world says otherwise. He starts to understand that just because something is a rule does not mean it is fair. This is a huge step in Huck's moral growth. He is no longer just following what he has been told—he is thinking for himself.

Throughout *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Huck struggles with his conscience. He wants to do what is "right," but he realizes that society's version of right is sometimes wrong. By listening to his heart instead of blindly following rules, Huck shows that doing the right thing isn't always easy, but it is important.