

Name _____



Huck's Growth

At the beginning of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Huck Finn sees Jim, a runaway enslaved man, the way society has taught him to—someone who is less than him. Huck has grown up in Missouri in the 1800s, where slavery is common, and people believe that helping an enslaved person escape is wrong. But as Huck and Jim travel down the Mississippi River together, Huck's views begin to change.

At first, Huck only helps Jim because they are both running away—Jim from slavery and Huck from his abusive father. But as they share adventures, Huck starts to see Jim as a person, not just someone who belongs to someone else. Jim takes care of Huck, protects him, and shows kindness. When Jim talks about missing his family, Huck realizes that Jim has the same feelings as any other person.

One important moment in their journey happens when Huck plays a trick on Jim. One night, Huck and Jim get separated in a fog. When Huck finds Jim again, he lies and tells Jim that he imagined the whole thing. Jim is deeply hurt because he was scared and worried about Huck. When Huck sees Jim's pain, he feels ashamed and apologizes. This is a big step for Huck because he realizes that Jim's feelings matter.

Later, Huck faces a difficult choice. He learns that people are looking for Jim and is tempted to turn him in because that is what society says is right. But Huck remembers everything Jim has done for him and how Jim has treated him like a friend. Instead of turning Jim in, Huck decides to help him, even if it means going against everything he has been taught. Huck says, "All right, then, I'll go to hell," choosing Jim over what society says is right.

By the end of the novel, Huck no longer sees Jim as just an enslaved person—he sees him as a friend and an equal. Huck's journey shows his moral growth. He starts as a boy who blindly follows what he has been taught but grows into someone who thinks for himself and chooses kindness and friendship over unfair rules.

