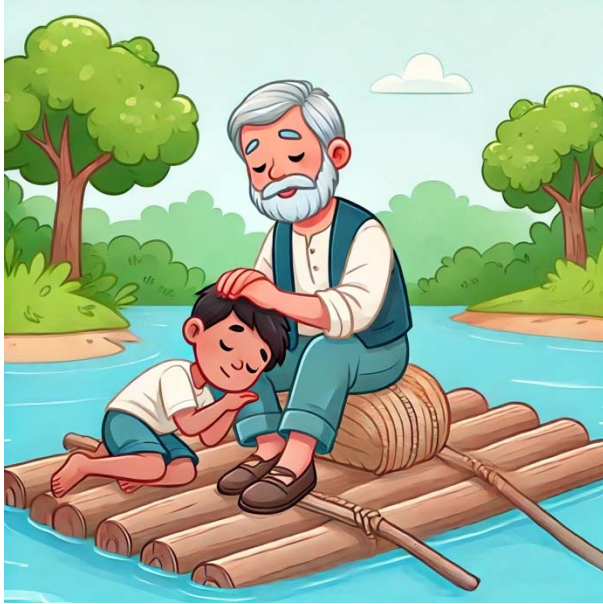


Name _____



Jim's Truth

In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain presents Jim as a kind, intelligent, and caring man. This challenges many stereotypes about enslaved people that were common in the 19th century. While some characters in the book treat Jim as less than human, Twain shows readers that Jim is a loving father, a loyal friend, and a brave person.

At the start of the novel, Huck has been taught to see Jim as property rather than

a person. Society tells him that enslaved people are not smart and do not have deep emotions. But as Huck and Jim travel down the Mississippi River together, Huck learns that these ideas are wrong. Jim tells stories about his family, showing that he loves and misses them deeply. He also protects Huck, acting as a father figure when Huck's real father is not around.

One example of Jim's kindness is when he comforts Huck after a storm. Huck wakes up to find that Jim has been watching over him all night. Jim does not complain or ask for anything in return—he simply cares for his friend. Another important moment happens when Huck plays a trick on Jim. Huck pretends that Jim imagined getting separated in the fog. When Jim realizes the trick, he is hurt because he had been so worried about Huck. This makes Huck feel guilty, and he apologizes to Jim. This is a big moment because Huck realizes that Jim's feelings matter just as much as anyone else's.

Even though Jim is a good man, many people in the novel treat him unfairly because of their prejudiced beliefs. The King and the Duke, two con men, take advantage of Jim and sell him. When Huck finds out, he must decide whether to help Jim escape. At first, Huck thinks that helping Jim is wrong because society says so. But then he remembers how Jim has been his true friend. Huck decides to follow his heart and help Jim, even if it means "going to hell."

Twain uses Jim's character to show that enslaved people were not how society portrayed them. Jim is not foolish or unimportant—he is kind, wise, and deeply human. His relationship with Huck proves that friendship and respect are more powerful than prejudice and unfair rules.