

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## River Escape

In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain shows a big difference between life on the Mississippi River and life on the shore. The river is peaceful and free, while life on land is full of rules, dangers, and dishonesty. Huck and Jim's journey on the river represents freedom, while the shore represents the problems of society.

When Huck and Jim are on their raft, life is simple. They float down the river, fish for food, and talk under the stars. They are not worried about being caught or judged. The river is a place where Huck and Jim can be themselves, without anyone telling them what to do. Huck is free from the strict rules of civilization, and Jim is free from the cruelty of slavery—at least for a while.

But whenever Huck and Jim go ashore, trouble begins. The land is filled with lies, greed, and violence. Huck sees how people on the shore cheat, fight, and treat others unfairly. For example, when Huck meets the King and the Duke, two men who pretend to be royalty, he realizes that people on land often take advantage of others. The two con men trick townspeople into giving them money, showing that life on land is full of dishonesty.

Another example is the feud between the Grangerfords and the Shepherdsons. These two families have been fighting for years, even though they don't even remember why. They claim to be respectable and go to church, but they are willing to kill each other over an old argument. This shows the hypocrisy of people on land, where they say they believe in kindness but act with hatred.

Each time Huck and Jim return to the raft, they feel safe again. Huck enjoys the quiet nights, the open water, and the feeling of adventure. Jim dreams of his freedom and talks about reuniting with his family. The river becomes a symbol of hope and escape from the unfair world on land.

Twain uses this contrast to show that civilization is not always good. Even though the river is unpredictable, it offers more honesty and peace than the corrupt world on land. Through Huck's journey, Twain encourages readers to think about what true freedom really means.