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Society's Secrets

In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain uses satire to show how people in society often act unfairly or say one thing but do another. Satire is a way of using humor or exaggeration to point out problems in the world. Twain makes readers laugh, but he also makes them think about the way people behave.

One example of satire in the book is when Huck meets the Grangerfords, a wealthy family in the South. They are polite and well-dressed, and they

say they are good, religious people. But at the same time, they are in a violent feud with another family, the Shepherdsons. The two families attend church together and listen to sermons about love and forgiveness, yet they continue fighting and even killing each other. Twain uses this situation to show how people can claim to be kind and moral while doing terrible things.

Another example is when Huck and Jim meet the King and the Duke, two con men who pretend to be important people. They trick others to steal money, lying and putting on fake performances. Twain uses these characters to show how some people in society take advantage of others for their own gain. The King and the Duke fool townspeople into giving them money by pretending to be long-lost relatives. Huck watches as these men lie, cheat, and steal, and he starts to understand how dishonest people can be.

Twain also criticizes how people follow unfair rules without questioning them. For example, Huck is told that helping Jim escape slavery is wrong, even though Jim is a kind, caring person. Society tells Huck that enslaved people should not be free, but Huck begins to realize that those rules are unfair. Twain uses satire to show how people often believe things just because they are taught to, even when those things are cruel or wrong.

Throughout *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain uses humor and exaggeration to point out the problems in society. He makes readers question why people act in ways that don't match their own beliefs. Through Huck's journey, Twain shows that thinking for yourself and standing up for what is right is more important than blindly following what society says.